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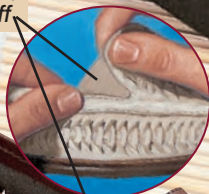
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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

1

All gave some...

14

'Young, wounded soldiers grow into older disabled veterans whose unique needs are the moral responsibility of a nation that made them so.'



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...some gave all.

RIGHT: A soldier's cross, for generations a symbol of wartime sacrifice, stands on the shore of Lake Habbaniyah during the memorial service for Lance Cpl. Brian P. Porello, who died Jan. 1 in action in Al Anbar province, Iraq. *USMC*

COVER: Marine Cpl. James E. Wright salutes during the presentation of colors at a Jan. 3 ceremony in Jacksonville, Fla., in which he and other troops wounded or killed in the war on terror were honored. See story on Page 14.





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Legion or Cosmopolitan?

I appreciated Suze Orman's opinions on credit-card debt ("Successes and Failures," March). I'd like to know, though, how she rated the front cover of a veterans magazine. Unless I missed it, Orman didn't serve in our military. We have a hell of a lot of veterans and active-duty soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who could have been given the honor of the front cover. Remember, they are the future of The American Legion, not some Saturday night TV host.

— Dale Turner, Newhall, Calif.

A *Playboy* shot it ain't, but March is absolutely the best cover I've ever seen on our magazine. OK, now I need to go get new batteries for the pacemaker.

— Gary M. Sunby, Henderson, Nev.

We are first and foremost a veterans group, with plenty of patriotic themes to choose from, past and present. Why try to look like *Better Homes and Gardens*, *O, Redbook* or *Cosmopolitan*? The flag, duty and sacrifice need to be promoted, especially now.

— William T. Kelley IV, Salisbury, Md.

If Suze Orman carries a gun in combat, then consider using her as a model.

— Vince Collura, Elmwood Park, Ill.

Wow! Your March cover of Suze is a knockout. I thought I'd received a copy of *Cosmo* by mistake. How refreshing!

— Robert McDonald, Dunedin, Fla.

Where's the beef?

As a 20-year Air Force veteran, I have to wonder where *The American Legion Magazine* found its recipe for SOS. I can guarantee that having partaken of this meal prepared by I don't know how many different GI cooks around the world, never was a smidgeon of dried, smoked, salted meat in any of them. Real SOS was always made with good old-fashioned ground beef.

— Bill Fotheringham, Calabash, N.C.

In my Navy, we called minced beef on toast "SOS," and it was good. The following recipe serves 10:

1½ pounds lean ground beef
2 onions chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
5 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 8-oz. cans peeled and diced tomatoes with juice

1 5.5-oz. can tomato juice
2 cups hot water
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon granulated sugar

Cook beef and onions in large skillet over medium heat until beef is evenly browned; do not drain. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir in flour one tablespoon at a time, until beef juices have been absorbed. Stir in tomatoes, tomato juice, and water. Simmer on low heat to thicken. Stir in nutmeg and sugar; simmer until flavors are blended well.

— Patrick J. Cooney,
Gloucester Point, Va.

I was intrigued by the sidebar on SOS, or chipped beef on toast. Marines call that stuff something else and rarely serve it. Here's a recipe you can try at home, courtesy *Leatherneck* November 2000:

1½ pounds lean ground beef
2 tablespoons margarine or butter
1 cup chopped onion
3 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 tablespoons soy sauce

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

2 cups milk

Salt and pepper to taste
and/or hot sauce

Brown the meat and drain. Add butter. Stir in the onions and cook them until you can see through them. Add flour, stir and cook for two or three minutes. Add garlic, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce and mix thoroughly. Add milk and stir until it thickens. Serve immediately.

Some put it on toast. Most of us dump it on skillet-fried potatoes and onions. Along with a pair of over-easy eggs, it is outstanding. We use the toast to sop up what's left.

This has been our favorite breakfast for more than 50 years. It sticks to the ribs and keeps you frisky and motivated all day. Hoooo-rah! Semper Fi, and bon appetit, chowhounds.

— Larry S. Green, Cedar Hill, Tenn.

Anyone reading?

It's interesting that Librarian of Congress James Billington notes that in the Library of Congress is a 1999 document discussing the possibility of someone hijacking an airplane and using it to destroy a high-profile building. My brow is quite a bit lower than Billington's, so I can point out that Tom Clancy published "Debt of Honor" in 1994. In that novel, a terrorist crashes a passenger jet into the Capitol during a joint session of Congress.

— Richard A. Stokes, Wyandotte, Mich.

In support of Scouts

I just read the March Commander's Message. Please keep up support for Boy Scouts of America, our faith and American values. Too many of our military are lost in battles protecting our way of life to lose it in a courtroom.

— Richard Koutch, Timonium, Md.

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What good are Boy Scouts for U.S. defense? In October 1943, the service battery of the 91st Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Armored Division, was engaged near Oran, Algeria, awaiting transport to Italy. I asked a sergeant to get the service records of all the men promoted since activation, nearly two years earlier, and made a check for any overlooked factors. About one-fifth had advanced in grade, and every man promoted had been a Boy Scout. We checked further, and very few Scouts had not been promoted.

– Marshall B. Hardy Jr., Louisville, Ky.

Left, left ...

A Parting Shots cartoon in the March issue depicts the American flag behind a speaker with the blue portion on the right side. Shame on you and the editorial staff who, of all people, should know better. The blue field should always be on the left side.

– Frank S. Chalmers, Washington

Our oldest ally

“Our Oldest Enemy” (February) is a one-sided, non-contested smear article that shamelessly plugs an extreme right-wing view of our relationship with France. For the past 22 years, my wife and I have operated World War II commemorative tours in France and other European nations. The French people are second to none in their appreciation of the sacrifices Americans have made to liberate their land in both world wars. During the tour season we live in Normandy – on Omaha Beach, actually – and we know the people of France very well.

How many of your readers realize more monuments and plaques to American forces are in Normandy than in any other country outside of the United States? These memorials have

mostly been built by the French people themselves – at their own expense. Together with our tour members, we have participated in the dedication of many of these monuments, usually with parades and tears of thanks from the French people. It is not only in Normandy that these monuments are found and these feelings are displayed – they are found in every corner of France where U.S. troops fought in both wars. Volunteer organizations do nothing but help Americans visit sites where they or their loved ones fought. They place U.S. and French flags on nearly 15,000 graves in the Normandy and Brittany cemeteries. The French people also lovingly care for hundreds of American plaques and memorials in their nation.

The author skips over the fact that the people of France paid for the Statue of Liberty, yet proclaims that France formed “a new axis with Germany and Russia.” Of course the use of the term “axis” was used, conjuring up visions of the Axis powers of World War II and the so-called “Axis of Evil.” In Paris are monuments to George Washington, a Metro station named after FDR, and the “Square of the United States of America.” The American Legion itself was founded in Paris. Yet “Our Oldest Enemy” never mentions any of this. Perhaps the authors never bothered to visit France and ask the citizens themselves.

Perhaps it simply fits in with right-wing anger at the people of the world for not backing President Bush’s invasion of Iraq. Perhaps your readers need to be reminded of the four-year-long defense of Paris during World War I or the 200,000 French soldiers who died trying to defend their nation during the Nazi blitzkrieg in 1940. May I

also remind your readers that French troops and planes participated in the NATO victories in Bosnia and Kosovo and that French troops were the first to fly close support missions for U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan? France is currently commanding the NATO forces there as well.

How dare the authors say that France “has not developed a sufficiently deep foundation in liberal democracy”? The people of France and those of other European Union nations have mature democracies where people are not cheated out of their pensions, where elections are not sold to the highest bidder, and where every man and woman are entitled to many more protections than Americans.

I am a proud member of American Legion Post 1 in Paris and formerly a member of Post 5 in Nice. I strongly encourage members of The American Legion to look beyond the right-wing hate that blinds so many Americans and realize that the French do not dislike Americans – but they do dislike the disastrous policies which got us into the Iraq mess in the first place.

– Raymond Pfeiffer, Lutz, Fla.

Response from the authors:

It’s too bad that none of Mr. Pfeiffer’s French friends run the government, the universities or the media, because these institutions form the nucleus of a profound anti-Americanism at the heart of French culture. Indeed, some of this anti-Americanism seems to have rubbed off on Mr. Pfeiffer himself, as his bizarre attacks on the United States – where people are being “cheated out of their pensions” and “elections are sold to the highest bidder” – suggest.

But why should Mr. Pfeiffer listen to us, authors he casually

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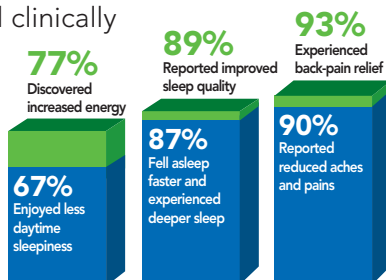
—Jackalyn H., Yulee, FL

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dismisses as right-wing hate-mongers for having the audacity to question the motives of France's president? Perhaps he'll pay more attention to Sen. Joe Biden, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who recently described French behavior with bracing candor: "We all understand the French have been less than helpful, and they've been a pain in the you-know-what."

Mr. Pfeiffer's fundamental problem is that he chooses to accept the age-old mythology of Franco-American friendship – the one that tries to draw a straight line from the Marquis de Lafayette (a true friend of America) to Jacques Chirac, no matter the facts of history. In "Our Oldest Enemy: A History of America's Disastrous Relationship with France," the book from which our *American Legion Magazine* article was excerpted, we provide a more accurate assessment of Franco-American relations. It is a story characterized less by goodwill and amity than friction, hostility, and, at times, outright war. Far from an incomplete and one-sided narrative, our book discusses in detail just about every incident Mr. Pfeiffer cites, from the Statue of Liberty to the fall of France in 1940 to French participation in the war on terror.

As for the French commitment to liberal democracy, we will leave aside the fact that France actually opposed measures that have brought voting rights to Baghdad and merely point out that France's own democratic foundations are not nearly as deep (or "mature") as those of the United States.

– John J. Miller and Mark Molesky

Grave concerns

In the February issue, Robert Bryce expresses his concern that "it's not even safe to die anymore," but his sensationalized account of the funeral profession suggests he is more interested in frightening your readers to death. He cites as "symptomatic" of the problems with funeral homes and cemeteries two cases widely reported in the national media a few years ago. However, it would be more honest to say that his so-called "grotesque" scandals are more atypical of an industry that conducts an average of more than 5,000 funerals and burials each day throughout the year. Curiously, Bryce cites the recent case of an employee at a state university who allegedly sold body parts as somehow being the fault of the funeral industry.

If the article even attempted to be balanced, your readers should have been told that Congress on two occasions launched an investigation of the death-care industry by the Government Accountability Office. The GAO reports, published in 1999 and 2003 respectively, found a smattering of issues but noted a low number of complaints from individuals and families who purchased funeral and burial services, compared to other businesses. Our own investigation of consumer complaints filed with the Federal Trade Commission revealed that funeral-related complaints comprise a tiny percentage of the hundreds of thousands of complaints the public sends to the FTC each year.

Perhaps the article's most serious failing is the skewed "advice" given to readers.

Nobody should overpay for a funeral, but how much a funeral should cost is as much of a personal judgment call as deciding how much a car, wedding or year at college should cost. Incidentally, the average cost of all three is much higher than the average cost of a traditional funeral. Pricing and service options are widely available through a variety of organizations and through the Internet. A funeral can cost as little or as much as you want, depending on what a purchaser has in mind or what he or she wants to pay. But the time to research this information is not on the day a loved one has died.

– Robert M. Fells,
external chief operating officer,
International Cemetery
and Funeral Association

Robert Bryce is quick to lump funeral directors, cemeteries, crematories, etc., under the heading "death-care industry." True, they all can be involved in some form with a death, but when you are critical of the "industry" it's not a fair title. Funeral directors and funeral homes are much more tightly regulated. They fall under a whole different set of laws by which the others do not yet have to abide. Bryce mentions Menorah Gardens, Noble, Ga., and cadavers from a medical school – all acts not perpetrated by funeral homes or funeral directors. I find it ironic that after mentioning these, he recommends cremation and donating your body to science.

– Sam Cummings Jr.,
president, Pennsylvania Funeral
Directors Association

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These watches were among the most stylish of the roaring 20's. The Stauer watch design that you see here has the antique color, the vintage style and the innovative functions of the original that we have seen in a Swiss museum. Even the Breguet™ style hands are designed from the original. The owner of this legendary multi-functional watch is sure to look distinguished and set apart from the crowd. This Stauer watch is a limited edition, allowing you to

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A time to honor the cost of freedom

May is a month of remembrance for most Americans – a time to pay private and public homage to our military heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom on battlefields near and far.

America's fallen heroes must never be forgotten. Their unselfish sacrifice in wars against enemies of freedom both ancient and fresh deserve recognition, reverence and gratitude. While every American should tend and harbor the fragile flame of freedom by remembering those who died to keep it alive, veterans are honor-bound to do so. It's an unspoken oath sealed with blood.

Gen. John A. Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a post-Civil War veterans organization, understood the need for veterans to hold closely the sacrifices of their comrades. In his 1868

General Orders No. 11, Logan asked what better duty could veterans perform than to cherish "tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts the barricade between our country and its foes?"

Veterans have an obligation to protect that legacy. Above all, they must be forever vigilant in keeping alive the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"If other eyes grow dull, other heads slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life

remain to us," Logan wrote in proclaiming May 30, 1868, a day for the purpose of strewing flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of veterans. It was Logan's desire that the tradition "be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades."

Logan's charge to veterans of the GAR is as relevant today as it was 137 years ago. More than 1,500 of our nation's military heroes have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan and Iraq in the fight to crush tyranny and in its ashes plant the seeds of freedom. They join a legion of young men and women who died before them to protect the tenets of liberty, democracy and the American way of life.

Men and women throughout the ages bravely have stepped forward to answer freedom's call. Many died never having experienced life's precious gifts of love and marriage, the sight and touch of a firstborn son or daughter. Their lives were cut short before giving a daughter's hand in matrimony or seeing the sparkle in a grandchild's eye. They left behind grieving widows and orphans, while sacrificing dreams of fruitful careers and comfortable retirement so that we who survive might forever live free of tyranny's bond. They gave their lives as a gift of love and patriotism so that their family, sweethearts, friends, neighbors and fellow Americans might forever breathe the sweet air of freedom.

We who inherit freedom's fruits through the sacrifices of fellow patriots – from American colonists who fought at the birth of our nation to troops felled battling the jackboot of oppression and terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan – owe these brave warriors honor, respect and gratitude. Take time this Memorial Day to remember them all.

Thomas P. Cadmus



National Commander
Thomas P. Cadmus

MEMORANDA

VA BUDGET:

Contact your congressional leaders now to demand an adequate VA budget for fiscal 2006. Congress is now debating next year's funding levels for VA, which is recommended to receive a 2.4-percent increase – an amount that barely covers cost-of-living adjustments for staff, let alone expected patient growth. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, and Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., each have introduced bills that would make VA health care a mandatory appropriation, a position the Legion firmly supports. For more information, visit the Legion's Legislative Action Center. capwiz.com/legion/home/

FLAG AMENDMENT:

House Joint Res. 10, introduced by U.S. Reps. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., and John Murtha, D-Pa., along with more than 80 cosponsors to date, reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Call the Capitol switchboard today to urge its passage. (202) 224-3121

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Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

■ A member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Ryan is a leader in Social Security reform.



OPPOSE

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill.

■ Emanuel, before being elected to Congress, was a top adviser to President Clinton.

As the baby-boom generation begins to retire, Social Security faces growing demands and shrinking revenues. By 2018, more money will be going out of the system to pay benefits than entering the system through workers' payroll taxes.

At the heart of this dilemma is the pay-as-you-go nature of our Social Security program, with taxes on current workers going to pay current retirees' benefits. When Social Security was created, this wasn't a problem because the tax dollars of about 42 workers supported each retiree. Today, three workers support each Social Security recipient.

Another problem is the meager rate of return we get on our Social Security tax dollars. Those working today will get an average rate of return of 1 percent to 1.5 percent, while today's toddlers can expect a negative-1-percent rate of return when they retire, assuming the program somehow avoids bankruptcy before then.

Personal accounts put Social Security on solid financial footing in order to help our children and grandchildren enjoy a secure retirement. We also are committed to making sure that Social Security stays the same for everyone now age 55 and older.

My legislation would give younger workers the option to divert part of their payroll tax – 6.4 percent on average – into personal accounts they own. They would invest this money in a secure, government-approved retirement plan similar to the Thrift Savings Plan for members of Congress and federal employees that consistently delivers returns of between 4 percent and 11 percent.

As younger workers retire and draw from their own accounts for their benefits, Social Security's long-term deficit will be replaced by growing surpluses. Through personal accounts, workers will be able to build substantial savings they can pass on, when they die, to their spouses or children.

President Bush is correct that Americans face a retirement crisis. But that crisis is not in the Social Security program, which can continue paying full benefits for the next 47 years. The current crisis is helping Americans save for their retirements as many companies abandon their traditional pension plans.

We can help Americans increase their retirement savings without dismantling Social Security. That program

gives seniors a basic level of retirement security – and the independence and dignity that come with it. Before Social Security, more than 50 percent of seniors lived in poverty, compared to only 8 percent today. President Bush's privatization plan would dramatically change a system that has worked well for millions of Americans over the past 70 years.

While Social Security faces some challenges because of demographic changes, only modest adjustments are necessary to ensure its future. But privatization isn't the answer.

Privatization will add \$1.4 trillion to the federal debt over the first 10 years – and trillions more thereafter – as the government takes money out of the Social Security Trust Fund to invest in private accounts. The government would have to borrow these huge sums on top of our existing deficit, further driving up interest rates and weakening the dollar, while future benefits under Social Security would be cut up to 45 percent.

I believe Congress should take steps to supplement Social Security. We should encourage companies to automatically enroll new employees in their 401(k) plans, help taxpayers deposit their tax refunds directly into IRAs, create "universal 401(k)s" that are portable from job to job, and make the "Saver's Credit" refundable to help moderate-income families who contribute to 401(k)s and IRAs save more money for retirement.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Analysts predict the Social Security system will go bankrupt in the coming decades unless substantial changes are made soon.

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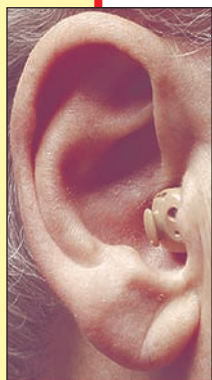
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John Edmiston (Reporter), *The Wall Street Journal*

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The Homecoming

War's newest generation of wounded veterans finds comfort among those who went before them.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Eddie Wright hoists his broad-shouldered, 6-foot-2 frame up from a mattress on Ward 57 of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He needs a cup of coffee, and getting one isn't as easy as it used to be. Through dim fluorescent light, he eyes his objective: the little coffeemaker beside the steel sink. He hobbles into position and, in focused silence, he slowly wiggles the carafe free, pours, stirs, jostles everything back into place and returns to the bed without spilling. The cup is lodged between his forearms. "There," he says in a soft, contented voice. "I've been doing all right without my hands."

At this particular point in his recovery – mid-August 2004 – Wright has been back from Iraq about four months. Using a plastic cuff device where once he had hands and fingers, he has by this time begun dialing the phone again. He can open a sport-drink bottle. He can set his watch and hold a pencil. Bigger accomplishments await; he is soon to be fitted for prosthetic hands with micro-sensors that will allow him to actually grip things, turn doorknobs and shake hands. His patience runs amazingly thick. He fully understands rehabilitation will take years, probably the rest of his life – a fate he accepts in the same matter-of-fact, happy-to-be-alive way he comprehends the ambush near Fallujah that put him in this hospital room in

Washington. "I've been able to keep a good attitude," says the former college student who entered the U.S. Marine Corps at 25, looking to make a career of it. "It's just like when I was hit. You make a choice. You can be depressed and mope around. But what the hell for? It doesn't do you any good."

On April 7, 2004, Cpl. James "Eddie" Wright was an assistant team leader on a not-so-simple 10-mile reconnaissance mission, guiding a supply convoy through Iraq's Al-Anbar province. His team, in the front Humvee, was tasked with

ABOVE: Cpl. James "Eddie" Wright proudly salutes after receiving the Bronze Star in 2004 for his heroic actions in Iraq. *Cpl. Richard Stephens*

scanning the landscape for signs of enemy presence, particularly wires or unusual objects that might indicate roadside bombs, the deadly scourge of so many U.S. troops deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There was an eerie stillness along the road that day. “We knew something was going down because of the way the locals were acting,” Wright remembers, gazing over his cup. “Then we started taking fire from our right flank. They had machine-gun positions set up. We stopped and started engaging ... right in the middle of the kill zone. The vehicle was getting shredded. It was crazy. I could hear RPGs going off, exploding. Our gunner got hit, and he was laid out on the roof. An RPG hit my weapon, and it exploded. Then there was this boom. I can’t really describe it, but it rocked my whole body. I knew I was hit and hit bad. I was waiting to see where I was going to start hurting, and I came close to blacking out – just for a split second. I remember thinking, ‘Hey, I wonder if I’m going to die ...’

“I opened my eyes and looked at my hands. I saw that the left was blown off like three inches below the elbow, and I could see the two bones sticking out. I looked over to my right. It was blown off. I looked at my left leg and saw that it was blown open. My femur was fractured. I was bleeding out. I remember thinking, ‘How in the hell am I going to put a tourniquet on? I don’t have any hands.’”

Eddie Wright is one of approximately 20,000 U.S. military men and women since October 2001 whose war injuries or illnesses were so severe they were taken out of theater. This new generation of combat survivors bears striking resemblances to their predecessors of past wars. They seem too young to have endured such trauma. They are mature beyond their years. Most claim their hearts are still with their units fighting overseas, and their steely determination to recover – even after multiple amputations – reveals they want little more than to go back and rejoin the effort. Their wounds are fresh. Their long-term plans are scrambled. Some suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, or will. And the war, long after it has faded from public consciousness, will continue to run through their veins. The wounded who have come home may not realize it now, in youth and with battles still raging, but as much as they need help healing today, they will need support on the home front in the years and decades to come. As

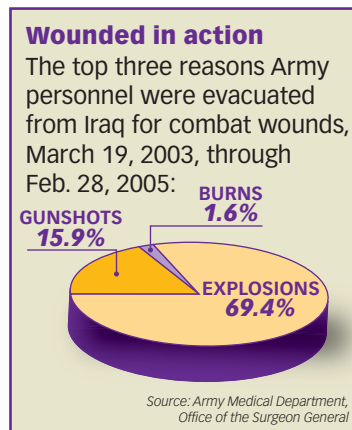
was the case with those who came home changed by America’s past wars, today’s disabled veterans also return different in their own unique way, to a society that has likewise evolved in their absence.

U.S. troops wounded today are twice as likely to survive combat injuries than were their brethren of past wars. Less than 10 percent of those injured in battle during Operation Iraqi Freedom die from their wounds, compared to 30 percent in World War II, 25 percent in the Korean War, 24 percent in Vietnam and 24 percent in Desert Storm. Various reasons are given for improved survivability in the 21st century, including tougher body armor, advances in battlefield medicine and quicker medical evacuation (from an average of about 45 days in the Vietnam War to an average of about four days in Iraqi Freedom, according to recent studies). Thousands of soldiers who would have bled or frozen to death in Korea or succumbed to infection in Southeast Asia are surviving today – albeit often coming home with combinations of conditions that may include multiple missing limbs, paralysis, blindness, burns, head injuries and/or severe psychological problems.

Recognizing this phenomenon, President Bush signed a law last November to spend \$15 million for new VA research centers that will focus on how

to better understand and handle the inherent complexities faced by survivors of multiple combat injuries. The centers will be set up at VA facilities that specialize in amputation rehabilitation, blindness treatment, spinal-cord injury and brain damage.

In January 2004, VA released a statement outlining an enhanced commitment to the newest



war veterans, including smoother transition of medical records between DoD and VA, a two-year grace period during which any Iraq or Afghanistan veteran can receive medical care without proving service-connected disability, along with increased VA staffing at military hospitals to help the troops understand their benefits. “Our actions over the next few months will define our department for the lifetime of the veterans who are now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan,” then-Secretary of VA Anthony Principi said as the new generation of veterans began entering the system.

The underlying reality of all this is that young,

wounded soldiers grow into older disabled veterans whose unique needs are the moral responsibility of a nation that made them so. As this 21st-century class of warriors distinguishes itself from past veterans – if by higher survivability alone – then VA and DoD health-care systems, along with many programs of The American Legion, are faced with refining the ways in which they provide meaningful assistance.

“The driver was stunned from the blast,” Wright continues, sipping his coffee and reciting the circumstances for which he received the Bronze Star. “The team leader’s right arm had a big chunk blown out of it; he’d shattered his elbow and was trying to put a tourniquet on himself. The assistant radio operator, I had to calm him down. Him looking at me was probably more shocking than me looking at myself. I knew that if I didn’t stay calm – there were only two Marines who were still able to function – I wouldn’t get treatment for my wounds, and I would die. So I calmed him down, and we got a tourniquet on my leg, and he started working on one of my arms. Then the fire picked up. I knew if we didn’t get out of there, someone was going to get shot in the face. Nobody in our vehicle was returning fire.

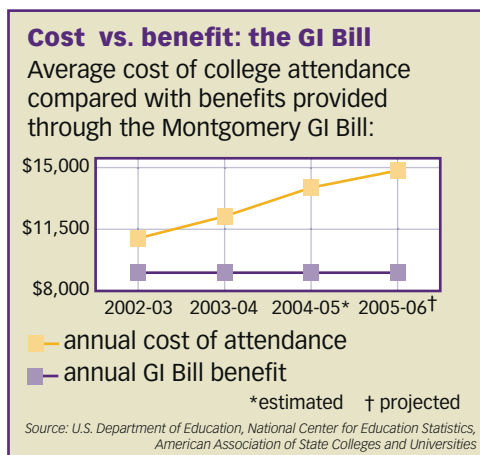
“The driver snapped out of it and stepped on the gas. We went about 300 or 400 meters and stopped. The Iraqis had position and blocked off the intersection. You could see them running around with RPGs. They were going to finish us off. I could have died there. My team leader got out and was using the driver’s weapon to provide security. His right arm was useless. He was holding the weapon with his left hand, trying to suppress enemy fire. Then he traded places with the driver, turned the Humvee around and drove us back to the convoy. We started taking more fire, and I was showing my assistant radio operator where the machine-gun positions were.”

Survival at such times, Wright explains, depends on staying conscious. “The training we go through, you realize your body can go through a lot. Shock will do you in. There were no choices. I knew I could die. I wasn’t giving myself that option.”

Battered and blood-drenched, the Humvee full of wounded Marines finally reached help. Behind them, 26 Iraqi insurgents lay dead. Up to 60 are

estimated to have been in on the attack.

Forty-five minutes had passed since Wright’s hands were blown off. At a triage tent, they cut off his boots and put an IV needle in his neck. They checked his tourniquets. “I wasn’t sure how much longer I was going to hang on ... The doctor came up, and I said, ‘Hey doc, can you give me something for this pain? It’s killing me.’ He hooked me up. He gave me something. I don’t know what it was. I woke up 11 days later in Bethesda, Md.”



The U.S. government has sometimes been criticized for rushing young soldiers to battle in the heat of the moment, only to retreat in the cooler-headed light of federal budget negotiations. It is a huge commitment, servicing the debts of past wars. The Department of Veterans Affairs is second only to Defense in federal spending, and the president has recommended a \$68 billion budget for VA in fiscal 2006, a slight increase from 2005. A little less than half is earmarked for VA health care, nearly all of which is discretionary spending, meaning Congress can raise it or lower it regardless of veteran needs. That is how funding often fails to keep up with VA patient demand. A 7-percent increase in funds does not cover a 20-percent increase in patients.

The President’s Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation’s Veterans issued a report in 2003 that illuminated a widening gap between funding for VA health care and the actual cost of providing it for qualified veterans. The task force recommended full funding for VA health care and showed that spending per patient had declined dramatically between 1992 and 2003, as demand rose. By January 2003, Principi capped new enrollment. A similar gap has opened in recent years between the cost of college tuition in America and static GI Bill funding.

This is no new phenomenon. World War II had not yet concluded when noted Columbia University sociologist Willard Waller wrote, “We know how to turn the civilian into a soldier ... But we do not know how to turn the soldier into a civilian again. This is the art that we must perfect.”

Five years after Waller’s work appeared in print, a federal commission proposed dismantling the Veterans Administration. The recommendation called for dividing VA into a collection of smaller

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bureaucracies with intermingled services for veterans and non-veterans alike – something akin to the dysfunctional system met by veterans of World War I. The Legion, which fought for more than a decade to put veterans services under one federal umbrella, has repeatedly defeated attempts to decentralize VA over the years, reiterating the point that veterans and their families deserve separate benefits. Some veterans say they were recruited into the military on promises of benefits like lifetime health care, which they later discovered was no guarantee.

“Our traditional policy has been to neglect our veterans for a period of years after the end of a major war,” Waller wrote. “During this period of neglect, uninjured veterans take up the broken threads of their lives as best they can, struggle against discouragements to compete successfully, force their way into economic, social and political life, while the injured, the maimed, gassed, tubercular and mentally unbalanced contrive to live by such little jobs as their conditions permit, learn to beg on the streets ... are forgotten together with their widows and dependents.”

Waller’s words in “The Veteran Comes Back” were penned more than 20 years before the Vietnam War was under way in earnest, a development that would later produce an estimated 40 percent of America’s homeless population.

Just past the nurses’ station on Ward 57, 19-year-old Sean Carroll is, physically, about two-thirds of his former self. He joined the Marine Corps out of high school in search of a career path. By March 2004, his choices were substantially narrowed. One leg was gone. One arm drooped into a hand missing nearly half its digits. His skin was speckled red from fragments of shrapnel expected to eventually work out. His gaze, weary and distant, is like that of a man twice his age. Tedium shows on his face, five months into a stay at Walter Reed.

Carroll’s relatives – on this day, it’s his grandmother who sits quietly near the window – stay with him. They listen to music, watch TV, go to rehab, maybe wheel outside for a cigarette. Celebrities drop by. Regis Philbin has been there. Dennis Miller. Miss America. Professional wrestler Mick Foley. Rock star Ozzy Osbourne. Snapshots of them hang on the wall. Osbourne, the heavy-metal rock icon known for having once bitten the head

off a bat during a concert, was, according to Carroll’s grandma, “really nice. He was one who actually stayed and talked and played his guitar.” Carroll, without expression, considers her interpretation. Visits from big celebrities, his face reveals, can never match what he has already witnessed.

“We were in Ramadi, and we relieved the 82nd Airborne. My unit was at a combat outpost set up in the middle of the city. March 23, we’re on patrol. My XO was the first one to get hurt. We ran through a minefield to get to him, to help, and we got ambushed. Most of what I know is just secondary knowledge. I only remember parts and pieces. We all got down. I ended up getting shot in the right leg. I was the SAW gunner, so I put out my bi-pod and started firing. I got up to try to find better cover, a berm or something, and got shot again. I didn’t make it to the berm. But I was firing. They detonated a 155 round close enough to blow me about 25 feet in the air. Then, all of a sudden, it got quiet.”

Carroll’s right leg was gone. His left was hamburger. “A Navy corpsman was operating on me in the field about two hours before they could get an Army medevac in. I was laying there, getting worked on, in the middle of a firefight. They saved the one leg. The artery was blown out, but the corpsman used a camelback tube so the blood would flow through to my lower extremities. When I got to Germany, they said I had a 20 percent chance to live. They sent me home. When I got to Bethesda, I was in ICU for 11 weeks, in and out of surgery.”

He lives. Fitted for a computerized prosthetic leg adjusted to his body weight and gait, he can expect to walk again. Other amputees tell Carroll he will get used to life with an artificial limb. His 5-speed Mustang will have to be traded in for an automatic, he says. Beyond

that, his plans are uncertain. He wants to go back to San Diego, rehab out of Balboa Navy Hospital – maybe hook into the UCLA medical school’s program for treatment. Long-term, he’s not sure.

“There’s a lot of things I always wanted to do or try. Right now, I am thinking about taking a break



At 19, Marine Sean Carroll considers his future after losing his right leg while on patrol.

Jeff Stoffer

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for a while, living with my mom, maybe be a bartender. Maybe with VA benefits and a couple hundred dollars a night, with tips ... eventually I will go to college for engineering or mechanics. That was what I wanted to do in the Marine Corps – work on machinery. Maybe I’ll open a mechanic shop, have my own garage or something.”

Twenty-four-year-old Jose Ramos squeezes a small button on a pump near his hip and feeds painkilling medicine down a tube, through his skin and into his bloodstream. “That’s my best friend, right there,” he says with a glassy smile. The pain goes away. His brow glistens with sweat. His shirt is off. His lips are chapped. His left arm is encased in a big foam-rubber cube connected to a system of tubes all its own. Two weeks earlier, Ramos went into the basement of a building to escape the blistering Iraqi heat and got nailed with a 152-mm rocket from an unseen location. “It was just a bad-time, bad-place kind of deal,” he says. “I’m walking downstairs, I hear a loud bang – everything turned black – and I smell flesh burning. I looked and realized my arm was hanging by a little bit of shredded muscle. I knew I was going to lose my arm. They tried to keep it, but there was too much damage.”

Ramos, a Navy corpsman, is undaunted. And it’s not just the drugs. The El Paso, Texas, man who grew up playing baseball, basketball and soccer is quick to offer suggestions to the nurses who come and go in his room at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda. “He keeps us in line,” one of his nurses quips. His mom is there. His dad is there. His brother and sister are there. This is the day he received the Purple Heart. “I am going to focus on one day at a time. Whatever happens, I am not going to give up. I’m going to try my hardest. I am not afraid.”

His thoughts invariably gravitate to his life ahead. “That’s all I’ve been thinking about. When I went to boot camp, I didn’t even know what a corpsman was. Once I realized what my job was

going to be, I liked it. I want to go back to school, get my B.A. in biology, and from there, try to get back into the Navy, go through medical school, become a doctor, come back and help people with this kind of injury. Let them know that, ‘Hey, I was once in your shoes.’”

Combat-injured soldiers find comfort in the company of veterans, particularly those who have been through similar circumstances. Soon after



Navy corpsman Jose Ramos says that once he recovers he will try to help other amputees. *Jeff Stoffer*

they are admitted at Walter Reed, wounded troops meet Jim “The Milkshake Man” Mayer, who lost both his legs after stepping on a landmine during the Vietnam War. He had 21 operations before he could walk with prosthetic legs and devote his life to support for

veterans. A VA employee and former lobbyist for Vietnam War veterans, he became well known in 1991 when he began delivering milkshakes to patients on Ward 57.

On any given day at Bethesda or Walter Reed, patients can expect visits from Legionnaires. Maryland Post 295 Commander Bob Ouellette, an Army retiree, is a regular caller at both facilities, heading up a program called Operation Provide Comfort that delivers personal supplies and coordinates recreational activities for recovering troops. His post has joined with four others in Virginia and Maryland, along with other organizations, in the

Adopt-a-Soldier program that raises funds, buys items and assists hospitalized troops. Dozens, if not hundreds, of other Legion programs are designed to ease the soldier-to-civilian transition, throughout the country. “The

way I feel about it,” says Joe Dudley, past commander of Post 74 in Charlottesville, Va., “who can work with these veterans better than we can? No one. We know their needs.”

Post 25 in New Jersey, which assembles hundreds of “We Care” packages for wounded troops, delivers notes of gratitude with the packages that

SEE HOMECOMING PAGE 24

Soldiers 4 Soldiers

Spent inkjet cartridges and old cell phones can be recycled to raise funds for American Legion programs that support troops and veterans alike. Cell phones raise \$3 each, and cartridges \$1. To learn about Soldiers 4 Soldiers, see legion.org.

Demand High for Drug that alleviates Arthritis Pain

Within minutes safe and effective DispersaCream™ first pinpoints then alleviates trifling pain, without pills and no side effects

By LAURA FISHER

Universal Media Syndicate

Pain sufferers are calling it a god-send. Doctors are calling it safe and effective.

What is it and where can you get it? "Adult Extremum DispersaCream is a highly effective and safe new medicine formulation for the relief of arthritis pain. It provides penetrating relief directly to the joints that bother you the most," said Dr. Peter G. Kunze, M.D.

When this new wonder arrives in drugstores it will carry the prestigious FLUIDjoint® Adult Extremum DispersaCream™ banner.

But, until then, the company is providing direct home delivery for those willing to cover the shipping.

"Consumers can expect it to hit the drugstore shelves soon," said Matthew J. Woods, PatentHEALTH Director of Development.

"Walgreens and CVS/pharmacy have already snatched up the first production runs, but shortages are expected," he said.

"That's why we are providing a National Hotline for people who want it now for immediate home delivery. They can call **1-800-784-9610** and ask for **Dept. CR557**," said Woods.

This new pain reliever gives immediate pain relief targeted directly where you need it. There are no negative systemic side effects to worry about.

Adult Extremum DispersaCream treats a broad range of painful conditions in adults and is well tolerated.

Advanced technology enables the combination of powerful ingredients to be delivered quickly and safely, directly to the site of the pain. Within a matter of minutes you'll experience the feel of welcome soothing pain relief.

The result is a fast acting, deep penetrating, long lasting pain reliever.

By relieving the pain in walking, climbing stairs, or simply bending, it can help patients live a full life.

Applied topically at home,

Adult Extremum DispersaCream can help patients and athletes reduce aches to provide temporary freedom from arthritis pain and stiffness.



■ PAIN RELIEF. Dr. Peter G. Kunze, a bio-chemical engineer and medical doctor was part of the team of developers that made new FLUIDjoint Adult Extremum DispersaCream™ which is available to pain sufferers without a prescription.

Researchers have discovered that Adult Extremum DispersaCream is a special trans-dermal preparation designed to penetrate the skin and reduce inflammation in the soft tissue beneath the skins surface. It contains two of the most promising ingredients discovered this century for safely and effectively treating minor muscular and skeletal pain.

Hydrating substances allow it to quickly reach the deeper layers in localized areas. The overall pain relief effects are cumulative and are usually felt within minutes of beginning treatment.

Individuals with arthritis pain, muscle and joint aches, and other arthritic diseases are likely to get relief using Adult Extremum DispersaCream.

People with pain will certainly want to seek out this remarkable new product that gives immediate relief," said Dr. Kunze. ■

Arthritis Help



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Adult Extremum DispersaCream™

FORMULATORS TRADE NAME:

(Myristoleate C13 Salicylate Cyclohexanol)™

FDA REGISTERED DRUG:

Registration N68414-51-02

DISPENSED:

Topical Analgesic OTC (over-the-counter) drug. Prescription is not required.

STRENGTH RATING:

Highest Adult Extremum. (Not for children)

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Direct Contact: Comes with the exclusive DispersaCream™ XT Applicator. Can be applied to any external part of the human body with the exception of a mucus membrane.

SYSTEMIC SIDE EFFECTS:

None. Can also be used while still taking any other oral drug.

INSTANT PAIN RELIEF FOR:

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|----------------|-----------------|
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| ✓ Backache | ✓ Joint Disease |
| ✓ Body Aches | ✓ Sore Muscles |
| ✓ Neck, Elbow | ✓ Leg Cramps |
| ✓ Feet, Toes | ✓ Shoulder |
| ✓ Hands, Wrist | ✓ Fingers |
| ✓ Hips, Back | ✓ Knees, Ankles |

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A. For those who want it first, call the National Hotline at **1-800-784-9610** ask for **Dept. CR557**.

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Legionnaires lead efforts to help disabled veteran keep roof over head.

How can you repay someone like Staff Sgt. Dustin Tuller, whose legs were amputated after a Baghdad attack? Who came so close to surrendering his life for his country? You can't.

But if you're Tuller's home community in Florida, you show your appreciation for the 29-year-old husband and father of four by building for him and his family a handicapped-accessible home at no cost to the soldier.

In an inspiring act of generosity, Santa Rosa County-area residents, American Legion Post 78 in Milton, Fla., and area contractors united to raise about \$200,000 in cash and materials for a four-bedroom home near Tuller's parents' house.

About 100 residents and organizations provided money or materials, and some 200 volunteered to help build the home, completed last summer.

"This is a unique situation, as far as I know," says Brian Bixler, VA's Specially Adapted Housing chief in Washington. Tuller is eligible to receive a

\$50,000 VA grant for accessible housing.

"The overwhelming response from the community demonstrates that after 9/11, people in this area were looking for a way to support the war on terrorism and to show their patriotism," says Don Salter, Santa Rosa County Commission chairman.

For Salter, who teamed with a local homebuilder to lead the project, it's also personal. Salter was an Army staff sergeant during the Vietnam War when his half-brother was killed by a sniper there.

Shot four times in the legs and pelvis in a late-2003 raid, Tuller was comatose; doctors in Germany told family members on Christmas Eve that he had flat-lined. The veteran who

spent six years in the Army and four in the Florida Army National Guard was placed on "imminent death processing."

Miraculously, he survived. "He has tremendous drive," explained his father, David Tuller, a Vietnam War Navy veteran. The elder Tuller's



Staff Sgt. Dustin Tuller, who lost his legs in Iraq, shares a moment with one of his sons. The American Legion helped build their home. *DoD*

Homes for heroes

Sometimes, all it takes is a phone call to change a veteran's life.

Mark Mix, a former member of American Legion Post 119 in Gulfport, Miss., and a current member of Post 85 in Newark, Ohio, was injured during a firefight while serving as a Navy Seabee in the Philippines. A titanium plate was placed in his neck, but that didn't stop him from reporting for duty in Iraq once he recovered. Last June, Mix again found himself in a firefight. He suffered back injuries that led to paralysis from the waist down. His bladder and bowels have shut down, and he has developed an enlarged heart.

Just 34 years old and the father of three young children, Mix bumped into Post 119 Commander Jim Tolar after he returned. Tolar asked Mix, who had joined the post before he left for Iraq, what was happening. "He told me he was having trouble getting scheduled for rehabilitation," Tolar said. "I told him I'd see what I could do." Tolar called his

department service officer and the Legion National Headquarters. Shortly thereafter, "things started happening," Tolar said.

Mix was scheduled for rehabilitation in Tampa, Fla. "If it wasn't for Jim Tolar, we wouldn't have gotten rehab," said Mix's wife, Jasue. "We were there for six weeks. Jim would call to see how we were doing, and one time he called and said he had a check for \$100 for us. Our children were living in Ohio with my parents at the time, but we still had to support them. That was a big help."

While Mark was in rehabilitation, the couple was sent to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes' "Road to Recovery" Conference in Orlando, Fla. The coalition of organizations, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Restaurant Association, invited 150 seriously wounded veterans and families to share their

pride was on full display during his son's homecoming parade in May 2004. Hundreds lined a mile-long parade route, vivid with American flags, fire trucks and businesses flashing Tuller's name on their marquees. The choked-up father introduced his son, who rose from his wheelchair and said: "Whether it's soldiers who served before, those serving now, or those who will serve in the future, they deserve credit and our respect."

"Anyone serving in the military knows they could be in Sgt. Tuller's shoes," says Jim Bates, a Marine captain who helped build the home.

The local high school Tuller attended raised money for a playground for his four young children. Money may also be available later, says project general contractor C.W. "Blackie" Black, for home furnishings and even for the children's education.

What if future injured soldiers from Santa Rosa County require specially adapted housing? "If I have anything to do with it, we'll wrap our arms around that soldier and do everything we can to make his or her life as comfortable as possible," Salter says. "We should never not do the right thing because we're afraid we'll have to do it again."

– Harvey Meyer



Seabee Mark Mix, in wheelchair, has received vital support from The American Legion since he was injured in Iraq. *Courtesy Mix family*

experiences, learn about opportunities and have fun with their families and fellow veterans. While at the conference, Jasue said she and her husband were selected to have a \$300,000 handicapped-accessible house built for them

by STIHL Inc., a global power-tool manufacturer.

"The way we look at it, if Jim Tolar hadn't made the call for us, we never would have been in Tampa," Jasue said. "Then we never would have gone to the conference, and we never would have been chosen to receive this house. The Legion really made this happen for us."

– Steve Brooks

MP captain who lost arm praises the care she gets at Walter Reed.

Capt. Dawn F. Halfaker of Ramona, Calif., has found, after losing an arm in Iraq, recovery is more than just physical therapy.

A 2001 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, she joined the Army's Military Police Corps, served a year in Korea, then at Fort Stewart, Ga., and was deployed to train



Capt. Dawn Halfaker

Iraqi police after the fall of Saddam Hussein

In June 2004, Halfaker and her squad leader were ambushed. An RPG pierced through both their right sides. Halfaker's right arm and lungs were badly damaged; her arm could not be saved. She was whisked to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, where

doctors put her in a drug-induced coma to fight swelling in her lungs and infections.

Halfaker now lives at a Fisher House near Walter Reed, where recovering soldiers receive physical therapy on a regular basis. She describes the therapists at Walter Reed as "extremely organized and dedicated. They do not just treat the injury; they treat the person. They succeed at raising the morale of their patients by making the weekly schedule creative, fun and filled with laughter as much as possible."

A sensitive subject is her prosthetic arm. It's challenging to find one that is comfortable, effective and looks appropriate. "Many people want to see me wearing a prosthetic arm because it makes me look like my wound is healed to a certain point – it hides my injury."

While learning to use a prosthesis, Halfaker awakens early three times a week to run two to three miles. Physical therapy, orthopedic consultations, clinics and career counseling occupy much of her time. She also works part time for U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Her immediate goals, beyond freedom from medical care, are uncertain. Her outlook, however, remains positive. "I loved the life I had before," she says. "It's just different now – not better or worse."

– Nicole Drumheller Gargus

HOMECOMING FROM PAGE 20

offer “any assistance we may be able to provide in easing your transition ... We are truly grateful and would like to welcome you home.”

Last summer, Ouellette helped take a group from Walter Reed to a Major League Baseball game in New York City. Equally important, he says, are the more routine gestures. “You just have to go in and say hello,” Ouellette says. “See how they are doing and if there is anything they need. Let them know you are here to help.” Such contact, he explains, has familiarized many new veterans with the Legion. Many, like Eddie Wright, have joined.

The American Legion – at all levels since its 1919 founding – provides numerous support programs for troops and those transitioning out. Legion service officers are available across the country to help veterans process claims and apply for benefits. The Legion’s Family Support Network offers help to

families of troops who are deployed, hurt or incapacitated due to their military service. Across the country, posts prepare gift packages, raise money, buy TVs, coordinate activities, even help build houses for new veterans. It’s all part of “the art,” Waller noted, that must be perfected.

“I went through the biggest majority of this last year working with these kids who have never been through this, being in a hospital this long,” says Legionnaire Dave Bowers, a 24-year Navy veteran. “Parents aren’t used to seeing their kids laying there in bed, all messed up. People don’t know what a toll it takes on the parents. I keep close contact with patients *and* the families.”

Donnie Garwood, 23, serves guests at Fran O’Brien’s Steakhouse in Washington, where every Friday night recovering troops from Walter Reed arrive for free dinners. Garwood has a quarter-size hole in his lung from a bullet he took while serving

with the 101st Airborne near Mosul in 2003. The dinners, also attended by veterans and often Pentagon officials, do more than create a break from hospital food. “It’s great for the recovery process,”

Garwood says. “We are all able to share similar stories. If I had just met one of these older veterans on the street, they might just say, ‘Oh, there’s some kid.’ But now, they come up and thank us. We really share something. We relate. Age doesn’t make a difference.”

Some wounded troops take their survival as a message. Twenty-six-year-old Marine First Lt. David Lewis – waiting at Bethesda to learn if an RPG attack in Najaf will take his eyesight – had this to say: “I have a great appreciation for being alive. There is absolutely no explanation for why my head is still on my body. That tells me that there’s something more, something specific, for me to do.”

In time, the men and women of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will become the core of The American Legion. They will remember, in later years, who was there for them when they came home. And it will be that generation’s responsibility to keep up the fight for adequate VA health-care funding, to make sure new veterans have employment and education opportunities, and

to prove to tomorrow’s soldiers that age really doesn’t matter, that there were Eddie Wrights in World War I who became Legionnaires and ushered VA into existence, that career-minded military men like Jose Ramos came home without limbs and fought to give future veterans the GI Bill and decades of prosperity that followed. Moreover, today’s soldiers will remember the bond they share

with their fellow veterans, who were there to welcome them home.

Said Ramos: “You don’t realize how important friendship is until

you are in a situation like this.” 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria



Marine First Lt. David Lewis waits in a hospital room to find out if he has lost his sight. *Jeff Stoffer*

Troop Support Services

The American Legion recently produced a new pocket resource guide listing dozens of programs for troops to support them while deployed and ease their transition to civilian life. **(800) 433-3318, legion.org.**



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Osteoporosis

Men break bones, too.

BY DR. STEPHAN D. FIHN

Usually people think of osteoporosis exclusively as a women's problem. While some 80 percent of those affected by osteoporosis are women, about 2 million men suffer from the disease, and millions more are at risk.

Osteoporosis is a "silent disease" because no symptoms appear until a bone breaks. Fractures, especially broken hips or collapsed vertebrae, can be serious. They lead to pain, loss of independence and, sometimes, premature death. The National Osteoporosis Foundation estimates that one in four hip-fracture patients age 50 or older die in the year following the fracture.

Osteoporosis can be prevented and treated. People can learn if they are at risk and then take measures to treat any existing damage and prevent further deterioration of their bones.

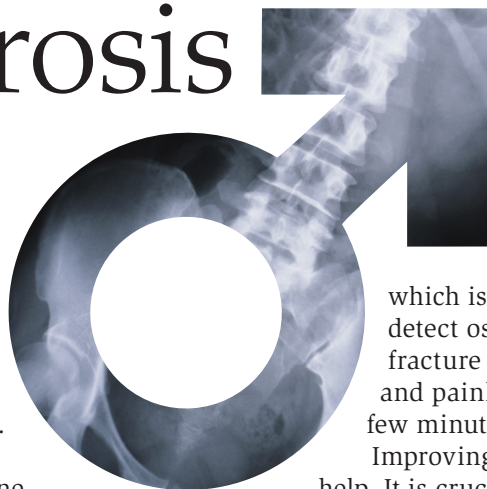
Prevention Strategy. Our bones grow longer and denser until we are about age 30, when they begin to gradually lose density and strength. If the breakdown of old bone tissue is too quick or the replacement of new tissue is too slow, osteoporosis can develop.

The disease, marked by weak, brittle bones, often results from a combination of risk factors. These include smoking, excessive alcohol use, low calcium intake, family history of the disease, thin build, lack of physical exercise, and extended use of certain drugs, such as steroids and anticonvulsants. Low testosterone can contribute to the disease in men.

Advice about preventing or curtailing bone loss is readily available from your physician or Web sites sponsored by organizations such as the National Institutes of Health (osteoporosis.nih.gov).

Men and women can take many of the same steps to promote healthy bones. A key is improving lifestyle habits: increase exercise, especially weight-bearing activities such as weightlifting, walking and climbing stairs; quit smoking; and reduce alcohol intake. Exercise has the added benefit of improving balance and muscle tone, which can help people avoid falls and consequent bone injuries.

Of course, consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program. Twisting or high-impact motions could create, rather than solve,



problems if you are unaware of existing bone damage. Your doctor can order a bone-density test,

which is an effective way to detect osteoporosis before a fracture occurs. The test is safe and painless and takes only a few minutes.

Improving nutrition can also help. It is crucial to ensure adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D, either through diet or supplements. Exposure to sunlight can also provide significant vitamin D.

It is essential to work with your physician to recognize and treat any underlying medical conditions and to identify and evaluate the use of medications that can cause bone loss.

No cure exists for osteoporosis, but several medications are available to help prevent or treat the condition. One example is alendronate, which slows the rate of bone breakdown in older women. The drug can irritate the lining of the gastrointestinal tract, however, and is not appropriate for all patients.

Promising Research. Researchers continue to seek ways to prevent bone loss. In fiscal year 2004, VA provided approximately \$4 million for studies on bone health in women and men alike. For example, researchers at the Bronx, N.Y., VA Medical Center found that thyroid-stimulating hormone has a direct effect in maintaining bone density. And VA scientists in Little Rock, Ark., discovered a synthetic compound that reverses bone loss in mice without affecting the reproductive system, as does conventional hormone replacement therapy.

Inexpensive lifestyle changes also can go a long way to prevent osteoporosis and improve our overall health as we age. That simple walk in the sunshine can save our bones and our money. 🌻

Dr. Stephan D. Fihn is acting chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.



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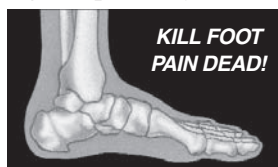
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A cross to honor fallen World War I veterans is covered up in the Mojave National Preserve after legal pressure from the ACLU.

Christine Wetzel

The Law Against Values

Attorney Rees Lloyd argues the ACLU should not collect profits from taxpayer-funded fees.

In a remote area of the Mojave Desert, atop a rock outcrop, stands a lone cross. Just two pipes tied together, it was erected by a private citizen in 1934 to honor the service of World War I veterans. But when President Clinton issued an order incorporating the site into the Mojave National Preserve, the American Civil Liberties Union saw a golden opportunity. In 2000, the organization filed a federal suit on behalf of retired Forest Service employee Frank Buono of Oregon, who claims to suffer a civil-rights violation every time he drives back to California and sees the cross. A district court ruled for the ACLU and ordered the cross removed.

So far, due to Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S. Code Section 1988, the ACLU has made \$63,000 in attorney fees off the case. Although Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., succeeded in passing legislation swapping land with a private owner and placing the cross on private land, to be cared for by veterans, the ACLU is back

in court trying to nullify the deal as a First Amendment violation.

Longtime civil-rights attorney Rees Lloyd believes Congress never intended such abuse of the law. A past commander of San Geronio Post 428 in Banning, Calif., he authored American Legion Resolution 326, which calls on Congress to amend 42 U.S.C. Section 1988 and end judges' authority to award attorney fees in cases brought to remove or destroy religious symbols. In a recent interview, Lloyd explained the purpose of the law and how the ACLU exploits it to impose a secular agenda.



Rees Lloyd

Los Angeles Daily Journal

The American Legion Magazine: What is 42 U.S.C. Section 1988, and how does the ACLU profit from it?

Rees Lloyd: The Civil Rights Attorney Fee Act was intended to provide an incentive to attorneys to take on representation of victims of civil-rights violations who could not afford legal counsel and thereby to fulfill the promise of the Civil Rights Act and

certain specified federal statutes. Instead, its good intentions have been exploited by the ACLU to reap enormous profits through what I believe is manifestly *in terrorem* – terrorizing – litigation to enforce its secular political, cultural and social will on elected officials and the American people by lawsuits attacking Boy Scouts and every symbol of America’s religious history and heritage in the public square.

While the language of 42 U.S.C. Section 1988 is simple, it has been used and abused by the ACLU, as construed by other unelected lawyers, i.e., judges, who hand out enormous hourly attorney fees to the ACLU in such a way as to defeat the intent of elected representatives of the American people, Congress, and to terrorize elected officials at local levels to cower and surrender.

Q. *How much has the ACLU received through taxpayer-funded attorney’s fees?*

A: The ACLU, posturing to the public that it acts on principle and pro bono, in the public interest and without fee, in fact has raked in enormous profits in lawsuits brought under the “establishment clause.”

These lawsuits are nationwide, coast to coast, and run literally into millions of dollars in the pockets of the ACLU in “attorney fee awards” – although in fact neither the ACLU nor its mascot plaintiffs have incurred any actual attorney fees.

As a onetime ACLU staff attorney, I know that the ACLU recruits attorneys to take on its cases without fee, and

that the ACLU does not charge attorney fees to the persons it uses as plaintiffs.

Large firms often provide attorneys from their pro bono units at no cost to the ACLU; the mascot plaintiffs of the ACLU in fact pay no attorney fees; lawsuits to destroy religious symbols, particularly the Christian cross, are as easy as shooting ducks in a barrel as judges follow precedent, in “judge-made law” pertaining to the meaning of the “establishment clause”; and the ACLU achieves its secular political aims, laughing all the way to the bank.

As to the total amount reaped by the ACLU, I do not know of any definitive study that has gathered up all the attorney-fee awards granted to the ACLU across the nation. It is, however, in the millions.

Q: *Why won’t judges deny these fees to the ACLU?*

A: Congress did not require judges to award attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. Section 1988. Congress made attorney-fee awards purely discretionary. Judges have interpreted that to mean that a prevailing party is to receive “reasonable” attorney fees, even if there are in fact no actual attorney fees. “Market rate” is used. In large cities, that can be a starting point of about \$350 an hour.

So, in practice, what is a “reasonable” attorney fee? Whatever one lawyer, i.e., a judge, wants to give to another lawyer, taxpayers be damned.

As far as is known, not one single judge has ever simply dared to say “no” to the ACLU. Why should they? They are

The Civil Rights Attorney Fee Act, 42 U.S.C. 1988

“In any action or proceeding to enforce a provision of sections 1981, 1981^a, 1982, 1983, 1985, and 1986 of this title ... [other statutes omitted] the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney’s fee as part of the costs.”

Eighty-five years of the ACLU

1920 – Socialist Roger Baldwin (right) founds the American Civil Liberties Union as a nonpartisan organization devoted to the defense of civil liberties guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.



1925 – The ACLU represents plaintiff John T. Scopes in a trial challenging a Tennessee law prohibiting teachers from giving lessons on evolution in state-supported schools and universities.

1940 – Because so many ACLU members have communist affiliations, the organization is criticized as a communist front. It bars from leadership positions anyone supporting totalitarianism.

1943 – In *West Virginia State Board*

of Education v. Barnette, the U.S. Supreme Court declares the board’s resolution ordering students and teachers to salute the flag as unconstitutional.

1954 – The ACLU files an amicus brief in *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which

the Court rules that school segregation denies equal protection of the law to black students and is unconstitutional.

1963 – In *Abington School District v. Schempp*, the Court rules that the “establishment clause” forbids



"The ACLU is the advance guard of secular totalitarianism in America. I am thankful that The American Legion is finally exposing the ACLU. Their hordes of lawyers have bullied everyday, hardworking Americans far too long."

— Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, recipient of the Medal of Honor and board chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.

lawyers handing taxpayer funds to other lawyers; the fox is in the chicken coop.

Congress should take back the authority it gave to award such fees and forbid them in cases under the "establishment clause." If such cases must be brought by the ACLU, it should have at least the decency to pay its own way.

Q: *Hasn't the ACLU done some good in the past? When did it cross the line?*

A: I am not an inveterate ACLU-hater. I believe that the ACLU, in the past, did much good, and still can, in defending freedom of speech, which I believe was its primary mission. Many of the early free-speech cases, especially in the area of labor when unions were forming, were won by ordinary working people defended by the ACLU. That I respect and admire.

While I respect that early work of the ACLU, I believe whatever good it did in the past has been vitiated by the harm it has done in the present by its fanatical secularism and apparent abandonment of common sense.

I was admitted to the bar in November 1979 and worked at the ACLU for approximately two years. At that time, there was not a "church-state project" and if there was a focus of "separation of church and state," I was not aware of it, perhaps because of my concentration on rights in the workplace.

But then Hollywood money came in to fund church-state litigation at the ACLU of Southern California. Norman Lear and other millionaires poured money into the ACLU. That influx of Hollywood

money, I believe, marked what I now perceive as a crossing of the line into fanatical secular attacks on every symbol of America's religious history and heritage in the public square.

Q: *Many charge the ACLU with being "anti-Christian." Is this true?*

A: The ACLU is much too politically correct to ever be expressly or rhetorically anti-Christian. It would react with horror to the suggestion that it is impure. But it is objectively anti-Christian. It is indicted by what it does, not by what it says.

The ACLU is quintessentially secular. I totally disassociate myself from attacks on the ACLU that say it is a Jewish organization with an anti-Christian bias. The ACLU's faith is not in Judaism, it is in secularism.

It has to be recognized that the ACLU's mission is political. It is an organization of elitists convinced of their sincerity, goodness, intelligence and right to social-engineer American culture and government without ever having to be elected by the people they would govern, and to accomplish their purpose through people like themselves: equally elitist lawyers sitting as judges over mere mortals.

What common sense would dictate a lawsuit against that lone cross in the Mojave Desert honoring World War I veterans? And persecuting the Boy Scouts? The philosopher George Santayana once said, "Fanaticism is the doubling of passion, while halving reason." There you have modern ACLU fanaticism.

state-mandated reading of the Bible or recitation of prayer in public schools.

1966 – In *Miranda v. Arizona*, the ACLU argues that suspects in custody have a right to a lawyer and the right not to incriminate themselves.

1973 – The ACLU

places a full-page ad in *The New York Times* calling for President Nixon's impeachment. The ad invites readers to join, and more than 25,000 new members sign up.

1978 – In *Village of Skokie v. National*



Socialist Party, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Nazi Party cannot be prohibited from

marching peacefully simply because of the content of its message.

1983 – In *City of Akron v. Akron*

Center for Reproductive Health, the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project challenges a state ordinance restricting access to abortions.

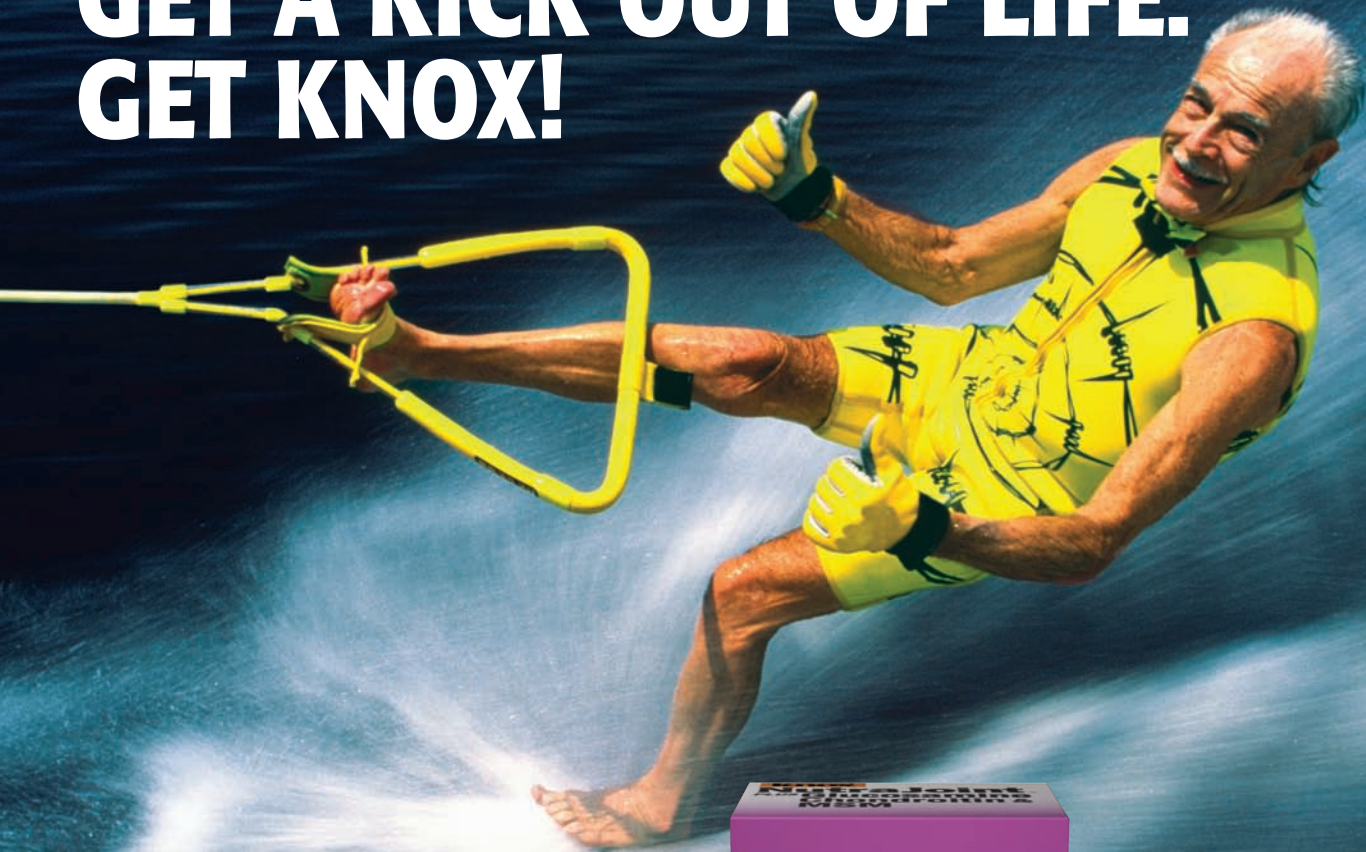
1985 – Alabama's statute allowing time for "voluntary prayer" is ruled an unconstitutional

endorsement of religion by a state.

1987 – In *Edwards v. Aguillard*, the ACLU challenges a Louisiana law allowing the teaching of "creation science."

The Court declares the law unconstitutional, holding that the law's original purpose was

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**Res. 326
(National
Convention,
2004)**

Urges Congress to amend 42 U.S.C. Section 1988, to expressly preclude the courts from awarding attorney fees under that statute, in lawsuits brought to remove or destroy religious symbols.

The Boy Scouts are not the enemy of America. Veterans and memorials that mark their service to the nation are not the enemies of America. Symbols of our American religious history and heritage in the public square are not threats to our American freedom. Those symbols which the ACLU now so fanatically attacks are but reminders of our American roots, our American heritage, the foundation from which this magnificent edifice of American freedom arose.

Q: *Can 42 U.S. Code 1988 be changed?*

A: Congress must take the lead to clarify 42 U.S.C. 1988 to exclude lawsuits related to acknowledgement of God. Besides The American Legion, many organizations desire to see the statute modified, such as CourtZero.org, Alliance Defense Fund, Thomas More Law Center, American Center for Law and Justice, The Rutherford Institute and Stop the ACLU Coalition.

In the 108th Congress, on Nov. 21, 2003, U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., introduced a bill, H.R. 3609, titled "Public Expression of Religion Act of 2003" that would restrict remedies under 42 U.S.C. 1988 in establishment clause litigation to injunctive relief. The congressman intends to reintroduce the bill in the 109th Congress.

Q: *American Legion Res. 326 calls for Congress to reform 42 U.S. Code 1988. What can Legionnaires do to help?*

A: American Legion Resolution 326, Preservation of the Mojave Desert World

War I Memorial, is a concrete measure with which we can stand up to the ACLU and not merely complain. It calls on Congress to amend 42 U.S.C. 1988 to rescind the authority to award attorney fees it gave to judges in cases under the "establishment clause" to "remove or destroy religious symbols."

All Legionnaires, all veterans, all Americans, should unite behind this simple measure, across party and ideological lines, to demand reform and to end this abuse by which the ACLU has waged war against the Boy Scouts, all symbols of our American religious heritage, and now even veterans memorials.

No one should doubt the threat that the ACLU's lawsuit against the Mojave Desert veterans memorial represents: it is the first time in history that private parties have been allowed to sue a veterans memorial to remove a religious symbol. The same legal principles the court followed under the "establishment clause" to order that solitary cross in the desert removed are applicable to all the crosses and Stars of David in our national cemeteries, and the 9,000 at Normandy Beach.

Communicate with your post, district, area, department and National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus. Communicate your support to amend this law to your elected officials. Demand to know where they stand on the issue. 🌿

Interview: Matt Grills

Article design: Doug Rollison

"clearly to advance the religious viewpoint."

1989 – In *Texas v. Johnson*, the Court rules that burning the U.S. Flag is

symbolic speech protected by the First Amendment.

In *Allegheny County v. Greater Pittsburgh ACLU*, the Court rules that

nativity scenes alone cannot be displayed on courthouse steps.

1992 – In *Lee v. Weisman*, the Court rules that clergy-led prayer as part of an official public-school graduation ceremony violates the "establishment clause."

1996 – In *United*

States v. Virginia, the Court rules that Virginia Military Institute's exclusion of women denies equal protection under the law.

1999 – In just 20 years, the ACLU's income grows from \$3.9 million to a record \$45 million. Its endowment fund grows from

\$780,000 to \$41 million.

2000 – In *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, the Court rules that student-initiated prayer on state-run school ground at football games violates the "establishment clause."

Sources: Lectlaw.com, ACLUprocon.org, others



Aging is Natural. Giving Up on Your Sexual Health Isn't!

Bring Back the Best Years of Your Life!

Here's how one man did it!

Dear Readers,

Although this would otherwise be an embarrassing subject — I feel strongly about sharing a recent experience with others my age.

Simply put ... **I'm 57 years old and even though I'm in overall good health, my body just doesn't respond sexually like it used to.**

Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform". It was just so difficult to remain firm. I began losing my confidence and my sex drive with it. I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment and my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do — it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone — not even my doctor — so in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First I found that many **HEALTHY** men experience a decrease in stamina and performance with age. **I wasn't alone!** Good blood circulation is key to maintaining a strong erection and apparently there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" and potency products on the net. I found a pill for everything and anything but among the various pills and patches — **one product stood out — Maxoderm! Not a pill or a patch.** This surprisingly effective topical formula is delivered directly to the "source", where I need it most — **opening blood vessels and capillaries to increase blood flow.** I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription drug or not, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder.

After trying Maxoderm just once, I could actually feel it working immediately! What a difference! I couldn't believe how firm I was — I even lasted longer than I have in years! My driver's license says I'm 57 but thanks to Maxoderm, my wife says I'm 18 again! It felt great!

I now know it's normal to experience some problems with sexual performance at our age but Maxoderm let me deal with it *naturally*. No pills — no patches — and even better — no embarrassing appointment with the doctor.

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Jim S.
Miami, FL

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“My driver's
license says
I'm 57, but
my wife says
I'm 18 again!”



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Author and international explorer Bob Cornuke visits with an Ethiopian monk on Tana Kirkos Island, which he believes was once home to the famous lost Ark of the Covenant.

Photos courtesy Robert Cornuke

The *Real* Indiana Jones

Robert Cornuke's 'recon' approach to biblical archaeology uproots tradition.

BY MATT GRILLS

Of his five arrests in Muslim countries, Robert Cornuke remembers Saudi Arabia as the most terrifying. Feeling a gun pressed to his temple and warm spittle on his cheek, Cornuke closed his eyes in terror as Bedouin guards called him a “Jew” and accused him of espionage. Had the guards thoroughly probed the American’s rented pickup truck outside the desert jail and discovered his supplies – night-vision scopes, satellite imagery, photos of a fenced-off mountain thought to be a Saudi military installation – Cornuke is certain he and his companion would immediately have lost their heads by blade or bullet.

“We knew we’d die,” he says.



But the guards didn't look. And, like a modern Indiana Jones, the adventures continue for Cornuke, who has been arrested or detained in Turkey, Egypt and Iran – usually on charges of spying – but each time he makes it out alive and unscathed to explore another day.

What is he hunting? What's worth risking his health, his reputation, his very life, to find? Hard, physical evidence to support biblical accounts.

Roadmap and Compass. For nearly 20 years, Cornuke has traveled the globe in search of places and objects that, after two millennia, continue to captivate the minds of the religious faithful. He has dived the Red Sea looking for Pharaoh's chariots. He has scaled mountains in pursuit of Noah's Ark. He has sailed to forbidden islands inside Ethiopia on a quest for the lost Ark of the Covenant. His resulting discoveries, chronicled in a series of books, chip away at the roots of more than a few religious and cultural traditions around the globe.

"What I do is more reconnaissance than archaeology," he says. "I go to sites and talk to people about what happened there, like military intelligence would. What's different is that I use the eyewitness accounts of the Bible as a roadmap and as a compass and as a guide."

What he finds is that it's often tough to square traditional biblical sites with the Bible itself. Cornuke holds up a hand and counts off examples.

"The traditional Mount Sinai in the Sinai Peninsula," he begins. "None of the geographic or geological formations fit. It's in the middle of a mountain range, not the back side of a desert. The Bible says the Israelites went out of Egypt. The Sinai Peninsula was always Egypt. Pharaoh had turquoise and copper mines there."

He sighs. "But tradition's a powerful thing. It's just become cemented in our culture that that's where Moses received the Ten Commandments. But Galatians 4:25 says Mount Sinai is in Arabia. Arabia is not in the Sinai Peninsula. It's in modern-day northwest Saudi Arabia."

Mount Ararat in Turkey is another site people won't let go of, Cornuke says. Just because the Bible says Noah's Ark landed on the mountains of Ararat doesn't mean it's on a mountain named "Ararat." Ararat, or "Urartu," was the name of an ancient kingdom. And Cornuke points to Genesis

11, which states that after the flood men traveled "from the east" to settle in

Shinar, or modern-day Iraq. Mount Ararat in Turkey is north of Iraq. To the east are the mountains of northwest Iran, where Cornuke suspects the ark rests.

"It was hard to say we were wrong after investing all that time, energy and money climbing Mount Ararat in Turkey," he says. "That's why a lot of scholars won't get off Mount Sinai in the Sinai Peninsula. They were taught that at seminary. They've spoken it from the pulpit. Some guys tell me, 'I don't want to look anywhere else. I've got a nice business taking tours to Egypt. I don't care what you say.'"

Cornuke's faith-based approach to archaeology is derided by some as a blatant scheme to profit off folks eager to buy any book or video about religious artifacts. Those with competing theories waste no time in calling him to argue a particular point or another.

Many, however, consider Cornuke an expert to take seriously. He's appeared on Fox News, MSNBC, NBC's "Dateline" and the CBS special "Ancient Secrets of the Bible." He's been featured in the pages of *Newsweek*, *People*, *The New York Times*, *Parade* and *Vanity Fair*.

When he isn't on an expedition, Cornuke travels the country to speak at church retreats and seminars. He's received letters from and signed books for actress Jane Russell, Mr. T, DreamWorks executive Jeffrey Katzenberg, Charlton Heston and Vice President Dan Quayle, among others. He's even been an honored guest at a Bible study for the White House staff.

"I'm involved with a lot of this because I like adventure," he admits. "But nothing is more exciting than to stand in front of an audience and see them open their Bibles and start digging in. I want to inspire people to seek out the God of the Bible for themselves."

On the Mountain. Early in his life, Cornuke was skeptical about the Bible's claims. Then he met Apollo 15 astronaut Jim Irwin, whose 1971 trip to the moon rejuvenated his faith in God. Cornuke had just moved to Colorado Springs after eight years in law enforcement. Impressed by his skills as an investigator, Irwin invited the former police officer to accompany him to Turkey to search for Noah's Ark. "I told him I didn't believe, but I'd try to find this boat," he recalls. "I figured maybe timbers from the ark could build a bridge for me over my wide valley of disbelief."



Robert Cornuke's latest book, "Relic Quest" (Tyndale), will be available in bookstores July 1.

They didn't find the ark, but the two men did discover they shared a passion for exploration. So when Irwin's fame as an American astronaut prevented him from entering Saudi Arabia to look for Mount Sinai, Cornuke volunteered to go. Within weeks, he and Larry Williams – a millionaire and two-time U.S. Senate candidate from Montana – managed to sneak into the country. Together they located and climbed Jabal al Lawz, which a handful of previous American visitors to Saudi Arabia claimed was the "real" Mount Sinai.

What they found at the peak, they say, stunned them both: dirt and rock with a sheen like black marble. Assuming it to be volcanic, Cornuke broke a rock in half, revealing a core of plain brown granite. Later analysis proved the rock to be metamorphic, he says, leading him to believe an intense heat once scorched the mountaintop. Had God indeed descended on it in fire, as the Book of Exodus says?

Cornuke and Williams say they found much more. At the mountain's base they photographed a manmade pile of rocks they suspect served as an altar. On them were crude etchings of cows and bulls that resemble Egyptian Hathor and Apis bull gods. The altar of the golden calf? Near the site, Cornuke also found a towering rock split down the middle, which he believes to be the rock at Horeb, which Moses struck with his staff to bring forth water.

Cornuke isn't surprised by the collective yawn generated by these claims. "People go to any length

to discredit anything, and they'll try to rob God of the divine at any time," he says. "Here are rocks that appear to be burnt. What does that say to me? They were burned. What's enough evidence?"

Driving away from the mountain, he and Williams lost their way. They asked a Bedouin to guide them back to asphalt. He led them straight to a jail cell. Williams suggested Cornuke act as a doctor, and guards allowed him to open his shaving kit for "medicine." One Bedouin suffered a swollen eye. After Cornuke administered some Visine and it cleared up, guards lined up for treatment. Not sure what else to do, he handed out sleeping pills.

"Their bodies had never had a drop of medicine, no aspirin, nothing," he says, still amazed. "In 130 degrees, their bodies were whumped. It was like surgery: count to 10 backward. Soon they were lying on the floor asleep." Cornuke and Williams hopped in the truck, drove away and within hours were on a return flight to the United States.

"If they gave me all the oil wells, I wouldn't go back," Cornuke says.

From Ararat to Axum. Years after Irwin's death, Cornuke continues his friend's quest through the Biblical Archaeology Search and Exploration Institute, or BASE, headquartered in Colorado. Staff and volunteers share the research load, and Cornuke often leads teams overseas to help him piece together various puzzles he hopes to solve.

His most recent adventure took him to Malta in search of one of history's most famous shipwrecks.

Noah's Ark

A singular volcanic cone mountain rising out of the Anatolian plain in eastern Turkey, Agri Dagı – or Mount Ararat – is considered by researchers the likely resting place of Noah's Ark. International explorer Robert Cornuke disagrees. First, he argues Genesis 8 says the ark came to rest on "the mountains of Urartu," or Ararat, clearly identifying a mountainous region or kingdom. Second, Genesis 11:1 says Noah's descendants dwelt in Shinar after journeying "from the east." Shinar is associated with the region of Babylon, or modern-day Iraq.

Cornuke believes Noah's descendants traveled not from Turkey, which is northwest of Iraq and would have required going through impassable mountain ranges, but from present-day Iran. Cornuke is convinced the ark is in northwestern Iran, perhaps on or near Mount Sabalon.



Cornuke says the rocks atop Jabal al Lawz in Saudi Arabia are scorched on the outside but granite within.

Mount Sinai

In the book of Exodus, God descends in fire on Mount Sinai and gives to Moses the Ten Commandments. The traditional "Mount Sinai" now visited by religious pilgrims in Egypt's south-central Sinai Peninsula was designated by Helena, mother of Constantine I, in the fourth century A.D. However, it has never produced hard evidence proving it is the mountain of Moses, Cornuke says.

He and others point to Jabal al Lawz in Saudi Arabia as a more likely candidate. In 1988, Cornuke and a friend slipped into Saudi Arabia, retraced what they believe to be the Exodus route and climbed the mountain. Though others reached Jabal al Lawz before him, Cornuke adds to their claims that it is the true Mount Sinai.

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According to Acts 27, the crew of a vessel carrying the Apostle Paul dropped four anchors during a storm to lighten the ship's load. Using the Bible's physical description of the wreck's location, and taking into account other teams' unsuccessful sweeps of Malta's St. Paul's Bay, Cornuke



On a special assignment for network television during U.S. bombing strikes in Afghanistan, Cornuke is surrounded by curious locals. While in country, he visited the cell where Christian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry were held. They asked him to retrieve their journals, which had been burned.

concluded the anchors were in a different spot. Through a bizarre series of coincidences, he learned local spear fishermen beat him to the find 30 years earlier. Without the knowledge of Maltese authorities, they had discovered and managed to raise four Roman-style anchor stocks from the seafloor. One was melted down to make lead diving weights, and the other three – thanks to Cornuke's efforts and government pardons for the fishermen – are now in a Maltese museum.

"They fit all the criteria," he says. "They come from the same age, the same depth of water mentioned in the Bible, in front of a reef where two seas meet. Did I see Paul's name on them? No. But we have a great eyewitness in the Bible, Luke, who

tells us where it happened."

Cornuke also believes he's hot on the trail of Noah's Ark – in Iran. Crucial to his theory is an alleged ark sighting by the late Sgt. Ed Davis of the 364th Army Corps of Engineers, stationed in Hamadan, Iran, during World War II. Davis helped an

Iranian village build a water system and, as a result, came to be trusted by the local population. A young man, Badi, told Davis that atop a nearby mountain, Noah's Ark was frozen in a glacier. He told Davis the ark is visible some parts of the year, when enough ice melts. He even led Davis up the mountain to show him the ark.

Years ago, Cornuke asked Davis to provide a detailed sketch of his journey and even take a lie-detector test, which the older man passed. Meanwhile, several fruitless trips to Mount Ararat in Turkey convinced Cornuke to look elsewhere. Davis wasn't certain he'd been on Ararat, leading Cornuke to conclude he'd seen the ark on a different mountain. Three trips to Iran turned up empty

Ark of the Covenant

Popularized by the 1981 hit film "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the Ark of the Covenant – carried into battle by the ancient Israelites, said by the Bible to be the throne of God Himself – remains shrouded in mystery. Some say it is in a tunnel beneath Jerusalem; others say it is hidden under the Temple Mount. Perhaps it is waiting to be discovered in a cave near the Dead Sea, on the Jordan River's west bank. Or will it be found on the Jordan's east bank, on Mount Nebo?

Cornuke says his research bolsters another theory: the ark was spirited away from Jerusalem during the pagan excesses of King Manasseh (687-642 B.C.), first to Egypt and later to Ethiopia, and now lies within the Chapel of St. Mary of Zion in the town of Axum. His evidence includes interviews and testimony of Ethiopian monks who insist they guard the true Ark of the Covenant. Cornuke also visited Ethiopia's Tana Kirkos Island, where



Does the Chapel of St. Mary of Zion in Ethiopia house the Ark of the Covenant?

monks showed him ancient temple vessels they claimed were brought to the island along with the ark. Among them were aged and rusted meat forks thought to have been used in burnt offerings.

Apostle Paul's shipwreck

St. Paul's Bay, one of numerous inlets at the island of Malta, has for centuries been famous as the spot where, in 60 A.D., an Alexandrian vessel carrying 276 people – including the evangelist Paul – shipwrecked

during a storm. The biblical account, found in Acts 27, says the ship's crew took soundings and found the depth to be 15 fathoms, or 90 feet. "They dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight" (NIV). Using the Bible as his guide, Cornuke contends that the shipwreck actually occurred at a different bay along the Maltese coast, and during an expedition to Malta he met local spear fishermen who years ago recovered four Roman-style lead anchor stocks at the precise location and depth recorded in Acts.

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but helped develop his theory. He continues to examine Davis' map and satellite imagery.

Having been pursued by the Turkish army down Ararat and arrested in Iran, he's accustomed to anti-American sentiment. Cornuke jokes that his wife, Terry, has their life-insurance agent on speed dial. She admits to some anxiety, especially with two young children at home, but says her husband told her up front, "This is who I am."

"Honestly, I feel a peace about almost everything Bob does," Terry says. "It's not my nature to be so relaxed. I guess it's just a gift God's given me. Some guys are just wild at heart."

Still, it isn't all about adventure. Cornuke considers his trips an opportunity to build friendships. "If you show people respect and sincerity, it opens more doors than money and power and credentials," he says. "I go back to Iran, where I have friends I've treated kindly and generously, and they welcome me back as family."

When Cornuke visits Ethiopia, where's he's researching the lost Ark of the Covenant, he takes doctors and medicine. He also supports a local orphanage. In the town of Axum, where Christian priests claim they've guarded the ark for centuries, such giving doesn't go unnoticed. "The guardian of the ark comes out and talks to me as a friend," he says. "He won't come out to talk to anybody else."

In February, Cornuke appeared on the History Channel talking about the Ark of the Covenant, which he speculates was brought to Ethiopia centuries ago by Jews fleeing the wicked King Manasseh. His research led him to Tana Kirkos Island, where monks say the ark was kept until Christians moved it to Axum. "They pull out meat forks and all these blood sacrificial bowls and implements," he says. "The island has no metal on it, a few buckets and a tin shed, yet you have these ancient artifacts. I believe there's a high level of probability they're associated with the ark."

Thousands of years later, the authenticity of the Bible remains an emotionally charged issue. Thus, Cornuke's comfortable admitting his theories may never gain wide acceptance. "I can only say I've been successful in providing evidence and reasoning why the Bible's true," he says. "If people want to disregard that, that's unfortunate. I'm lifting a candle into the dim chambers of history. What I ask is that they take a look and honestly evaluate the evidence that's so apparent." 🌿

Matt Grills is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison



At the base of Saudi Arabia's Jabal al Lawz, which Cornuke believes is the biblical Mount Sinai, stands an immense pile of rocks bearing Egyptian-style etchings. Is this the altar of the golden calf cited in the Book of Exodus?

Q&A | Robert Cornuke

How long will you search for biblical relics?

"I'm committed to spending the rest of my life searching for the lost locations of the Bible. More evidence is sleeping in the ground over in the Middle East than we can imagine."

Do you fear for your life?

"I take every precaution I can, but the innate risks of the job are that I'll be in a situation where I'm vulnerable – that is, away from phone, food, friends, mechanics, doctors. With Harrison Ford, when they say 'cut,' end of scene. When I'm out in the field and they say 'cut,' they get a tourniquet. I'm on a boat that could sink, I'm in a plane that could crash, I'm in a desert where I could dehydrate, I'm in a jungle with things that could eat me, I'm in the Middle East where people want to shoot me. The line of work I'm in is very, very dangerous."

How important is it to find Noah's Ark?

"If the ark's there, great. If not, great. It doesn't diminish the Bible at all. Lewis and Clark didn't find the water passage they wanted to find, but boy, they found out a thousand things more. I haven't found Noah's Ark, but I've found out a thousand things more about myself and God and what's out there in the world."

Do you ever get discouraged?

"A lot of times you find more riches in not finding what you're looking for. And maybe God puts me through so much disappointment so that if I do ever find something I'll be humble."

Does the Indiana Jones comparison fit?

"I used to be bothered when people called me Indiana Jones. You want to have your own name. But it saves a lot of time if you say you're involved in Indiana Jones-type research."

Choose Life Grow Young with HGH

From the landmark book *Grow Young with HGH* comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the reason why the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old. There is a receptorsite in almost every cell in the human

body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$20,000 US per year.

Many in hollywood's glamour sets, who never seem to age like you or I, have a special secret to tell, and even space pioneer and US Senator John Glen stays vital with HGH.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when the American Anti-aging Society, a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for the price of a coffee and donut a day.

GHR now available n America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of

self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leapfrog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

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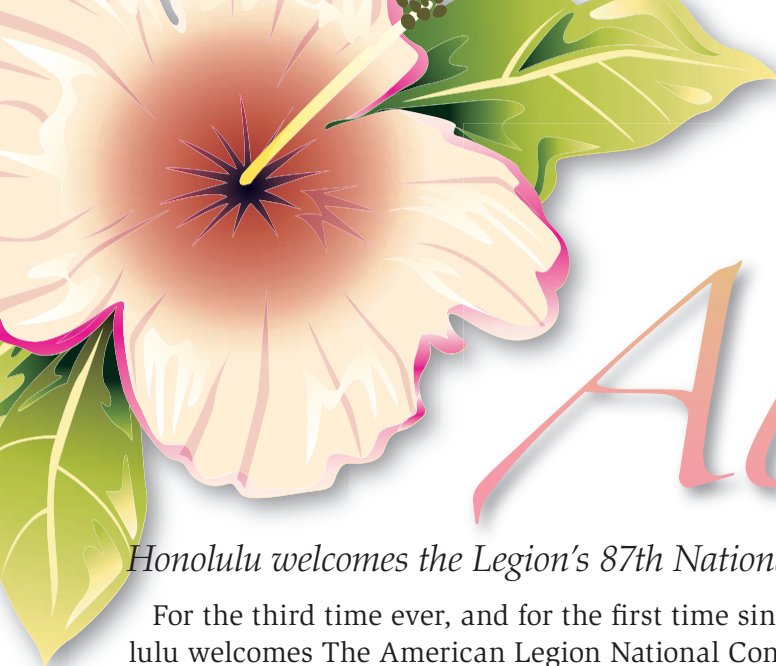
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Aloha!

Honolulu welcomes the Legion's 87th National Convention.

For the third time ever, and for the first time since 1981, Honolulu welcomes The American Legion National Convention this summer. The 87th annual gathering of the world's largest veterans organization takes place Aug. 19 to 25 on the south shore of Oahu. Honolulu was also the site of the 1973 convention. Dozens of historical and natural attractions await Legionnaires who attend.

— Compiled by James V. Carroll



Island-hopping



The Big Island of

Hawaii: At 4,038 square miles, Hawaii's largest island is home to two of the tallest mountains in the Pacific: Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. Kilauea Iki is earth's most active and largest volcano. No place on the planet grows more macadamia nuts.

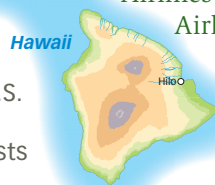
Kahoolawe: A former target range for the U.S. Navy and Air Force, this island is off-limits to visitors without permission. The island consists of an uninhabited area of 45 square miles.

Kauai: Fourth largest of the Hawaiian islands, Kauai is drained by the Waialua River, which runs off Waialeale Mountain, with its 488 inches of rain per year. It is considered the wettest spot on earth.

Lanai: Considered Hawaii's most secluded isle, Lanai has a marine preserve in Hulope Bay and is one of the best-rated diving spots in the world.

Hawaii has more to see than just Honolulu. Six of Hawaii's eight islands are easily accessible by air. Each island is rich in beauty, culture and adventure. Air travel between islands is convenient and relatively inexpensive. A roundtrip ticket can cost less than \$200.

Time permitting, a little island-hopping can provide an exciting diversion and a lifetime of memories. For more information on available flights call Aloha Airlines in Oahu at (808) 484-1111 or Hawaiian Airlines at (808) 944-1964.



Maui: Among its many attractions are the old whaling town of Lahaina, Kaanapali Beach and Haleakala Crater, Earth's largest dormant volcano.

Molokai: The east end's tropical rainforest receives 240 inches of rainfall annually. The island contains the world's highest sea cliffs, Hawaii's longest waterfall, and the state's largest white-sand beach.

Niihau: A privately owned island, with livestock as its principal industry, Niihau has highly limited public access, via helicopter, to uninhabited sites. The 69-square-mile island has a population of 230.

Oahu: This island draws more visitors than any other Hawaiian island. One-third of the state's best surfing beaches are on Oahu. Honolulu, site of Iolani Palace, the only royal palace in the United States, is the nation's 11th largest metropolitan area.

Sources: Oahu Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Convention and Visitors Bureau, 50states.com



FUN FACT: The eruptions of undersea volcanoes thousands of years ago formed the Hawaiian islands, which are the projecting tops of the biggest mountain range in the world. The Big Island of Hawaii is the youngest of the island chain and was the first identified by voyaging Polynesians.



FUN FACT: Hawaiian Standard Time runs two hours behind Pacific Standard Time and five hours behind Eastern Standard Time. Hawaii does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

August average daytime temperature: 85
Night: 74

Hawaii's mountains, which extend from sea level to nearly 14,000 feet, experience a climatic range from the tropic to the sub-Arctic.

Records: High: 100 degrees at Pahala – elevation 870 feet – on the Big Island on April 27, 1931. Low: 12 degrees on Mauna Kea – 13,770 feet – also on the Big Island, on May 17, 1979.

Hawaiian weather

Features of Hawaii's climate include mild temperatures throughout the year, moderate humidity, persistent northeasterly trade winds, extremely heavy rainfall in some areas and occasional storms.

Rainfall in Honolulu: Less than half an inch, on average, in August. Visitors can expect higher amounts of precipitation in other areas of Oahu.

Water temperature: The seasonal range of ocean-water temperatures near Hawaii is only about six degrees, from 73 or 74 degrees in February and March to nearly 80 in late September or early October.

Source: National Weather Service

Oahu attractions

Opportunities abound on Oahu to partake of great food, lovely sights, shopping, entertainment and cultural activities. More than 100 beaches ring the 112-mile coastline. Sailing, whale watching and dolphin viewing, fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking and swimming are available for water lovers. The waves slap more leisurely against beaches during the summer months, but surfing knows no season. The best summer surfing on Oahu is off the island's south shores. Whether walking the golden sands of Honolulu's Waikiki Beach or following the two-mile paved beachfront walkway, visitors are treated to beauty beyond description.

North Oahu has world-famous surfing venues such as Sunset Beach, Bonzai Pipeline and Wiamea Bay, along with The Polynesian Cultural Center, Brigham Young University Hawaii and Hawaii Mormon Temple are here. Native Hawaiian crafts and products can be found at the Hale Kuai Cooperative, next to Hauula School.

South Oahu is home to Pearl Harbor, Punchbowl Crater, Diamond Head, Chinatown, Foster Botanic Gardens, Hawaiian Maritime Center Iolani Palace, Bishop Museum, Waikiki Aquarium and Honolulu Zoo. At Hanauma Bay, visitors can marvel through the crystal blue water at the abundant life and beauty. Shopping includes the Aloha Tower Marketplace, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Ala Moana Shopping Center, Victoria



FUN FACT: More than one-third of the world's commercial supply of pineapples comes from Hawaii.



43

The eastern coast of Oahu provides many scenic views.

James V. Carroll

Ward Centre, and hundreds of shops and boutiques. The museum at Fort DeRussy includes a great collection of war materials, with focus on World War II. The exhibits also include Hawaiian weapons.

East Oahu, east of the Koolau Range, includes Senator Fong's Plantation and Garden, the Sealife Park Hawaii, the Macadamia Nut Tropical Farm south of Kualoa Point and one of the island's most popular bodysurfing beaches, Makapuu.

West Oahu is the side of the island mostly enjoyed by the locals. Stretches of white sandy beaches are not crowded during the week.

Central Oahu, in the center of the island, includes Pearl City, the Dole Pineapple Plantation, Waipahu Sugar Mill and Wahiawa Botanical Garden.

Pearl Harbor history



Pearl Harbor's most enduring legacy is memorialized by the *Missouri* and the *Arizona*. James V. Carroll

Shortly after 8 a.m. Dec. 7, 1941, an armor-piercing bomb dropped by a high-altitude Japanese bomber struck the USS *Arizona*, sending it to the bottom of the balmy waters of Pearl Harbor in less than 10 minutes, killing 1,177 men aboard. By the time the last Japanese war plane returned to its strike-force carrier, 2,390 Americans had perished in the surprise attack. The next day, the United States entered World War II.

Forty-four months later, 292,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen had lost their lives in the European and Pacific theaters. Allied forces lost 12.6 million combatants and as many as 39 million civilians died as a result of the war. The Axis was defeated.

On Aug. 6, 1945, a U.S. warplane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, U.S. forces dropped a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki. The war ended. Japan capitulated Aug. 14, and on Sept. 2, Japanese officials surrendered aboard the battleship USS *Missouri* anchored in Tokyo Harbor.

Today, "Mighty Mo" stands silent vigil in Pearl Harbor, near a memorial sheltering the sunken USS *Arizona* and its crew.

Pearl Harbor and World War II

No trip to Oahu is complete without a visit to Pearl Harbor or the National Cemetery of the Pacific – the "Punchbowl." Day-long "Home of the Brave" tours are available. Also:

USS *Arizona* Memorial. Marks the watery grave of the sunken battleship and its crew. Avoid long lines by arriving before 7:30 a.m. (808) 422-0561

USS *Missouri*. Japanese officials signed surrender documents on its deck to end World War II. Self-guided and guided tours available. On Sept. 2, the USS *Missouri* Memorial Association, will commemorate the 60th anniversary of Japan's surrender aboard "Mighty Mo." (808) 973-2494

USS *Bowfin*. A waterfront memorial pays tribute to more than 3,500 submariners who died during World War II. (808) 423-1341

The Punchbowl. Hawaii's most visited site. The Courts of the Missing is inscribed with the names of 26,280 Pacific theater and Korea MIA combatants. (808) 532-3720

Home of the Brave Battlefield Tour. Visitors can eat lunch in the Fort Shafter officers club prior to touring the Punchbowl and returning to The Home of the Brave Museum. (808) 396-8112

The U.S. Army Museum. At Battery Randolph, just off Waikiki Beach, the facility features a great collection of war materials. (808) 438-2821

FUN FACT: Hawaii is the most isolated population center on earth. It is 2,390 miles from California, 3,850 miles from Japan, 4,900 miles from China and 5,280 miles from the Philippines.

Its eight islands are Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Niihau and Oahu. Approximately 1.3 million people live on the 2,000 square miles of landmass that make up the islands.

The Hawaiian Archipelago consists of more than 130 points of land stretching some 1,600 miles from the Kure Atoll in the north to the Big Island of Hawaii in the south. From east to west, Hawaii is the widest state in America.

Airline discounts

The American Legion has obtained airline discounts ranging from 5 percent to 15 percent for travel to the National Convention. Legionnaires should contact airlines directly for reservations.

AIRLINE	PHONE NUMBER	DISCOUNT CODE
American Airlines	(800) 433-1790	#A0985AA
American Trans Air	(877) 282-4322	MC50200
Northwest Airlines	(800) 328-1111	#NY884
United Airlines	(800) 521-4041	#500ZV

Travel dates eligible for discounts are from Aug. 12 to Sept. 1. Legionnaires are asked to call their department adjutants for hotel reservations and registration.



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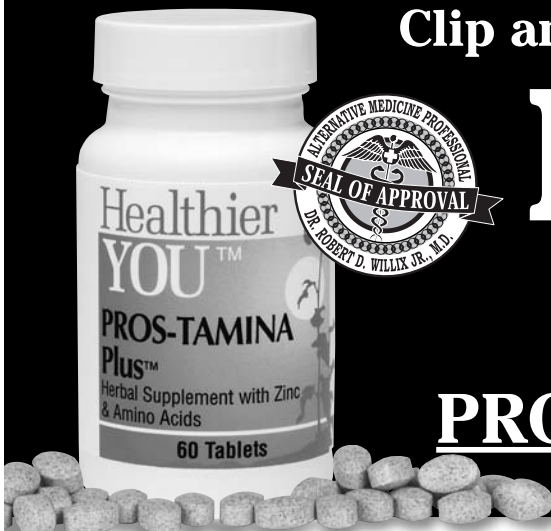
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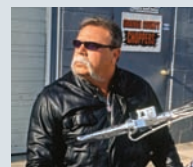
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[Q&A]

An "American Chopper" tribute to POW/MIAs

Paul Teutul Sr., is founder of Orange County Choppers, the Rock Tavern, N.Y., motorcycle design business featured on the Discovery Channel's most popular television series, "American Chopper." Teutul, who served in the Merchant Marine, recently designed and built a bike for the show, in honor of America's prisoners of war and those missing in action. He recently spoke with The American Legion Magazine.



Paul Teutul

The American Legion Magazine:

How did you become involved in the creation of the POW/MIA tribute motorcycle?

Paul Teutul: Vietnam was my era. I thought it would be a good recognition for the people that fought in the Vietnam War.

Q: What are some of the bike's distinctive characteristics?

A: The (dog tags on the handle bars) – one was from Iraq and the other was from a Vietnam veteran. The back of the fender had names on it, like on the Vietnam War Memorial Wall. On the back fender there is a picture cut out of the POW/MIA flag. We used actual barbed wire going around the wheels and going around the frame, and there's a painting on the top (of the gas tank) of one of the POW paintings.

Q: What was the response to the motorcycle from Vietnam War veterans?

A: It was phenomenal.

On the air and on the Web

"American Chopper" can be seen Monday evenings on Discovery Channel. Details about Orange County Choppers and bikes built on the program can be found at discoverychannel.com.



In episodes 17-19, which premiered in January 2004, OCC designed and built the POW/MIA bike.

Courtesy Orange County Choppers

[ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION]

Arizona legislators call for immigrant prison south of the border

Arizona lawmakers took up a measure last winter to authorize the state to contract out construction for a private prison to hold illegal immigrants – but not in Arizona. Instead, lawmakers wanted the prison to be built inside Mexico's borders.

The proposal was triggered by rising costs Arizona taxpayers shoulder incarcerating illegal immigrants convicted of other crimes. Arizona correctional facilities now hold some 4,000 illegal-immigrant convicts. The costs have led Gov. Janet Napolitano to send a

\$118 million bill to the federal government.

The proposal to create a special commission to

oversee what the bill called "operations and administration of private prison facilities that are located in Mexico" won easy approval in a House committee. However, it faced several hurdles, not the least of which is the question of "whether the state could fulfill its responsibility to oversee a prison ... located in another country," as one lawmaker told The Associated Press. Updates available at azleg.az.us.

Alien sightings, 2004

1.15 million: Number of illegal aliens caught sneaking into the United States, by U.S. Border Patrol agents

24: Percentage increase over 2003 apprehensions

643,000: Number of illegal aliens denied entry at the U.S. border

47,744: Number of illegal drug seizures by U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors and officers at ports of entry

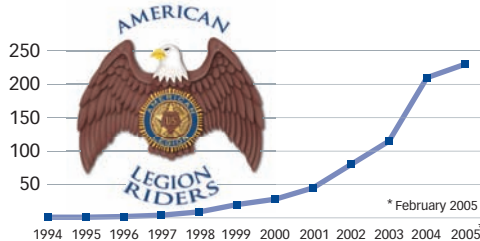
23,000: Number of apprehended illegal aliens with criminal records

84: Number who were murder suspects.

151: Number wanted on sexual assault charges

Riders on the rise

The number of American Legion Riders chapters has grown from one to 230 chapters since 1994.



Q: It's obvious the POW/MIA tribute bike has sentimental value to you. Explain why you were so passionate about it.

A: I'm from that era, so I've seen what those guys went through and basically what little they got for it. It was the recognition they deserved.

Q: Orange County Chopper shirts and hats are everywhere. How do you explain the popularity of your show?

A: It's hard to explain the popularity of the show. The merchandise is pretty user-friendly. Our demographics are not just in the motorcycle world. It's Mom and Pop, too.

Q: How has the war on terrorism impacted you emotionally?

A: It's just a tough thing. We've been down to Walter Reed Hospital ... it's really a terrible thing. When you go to hospitals and you see all these amputees and head injuries on all these young people, it just tears you up.

Q: Do you plan any future military or veteran-inspired bikes?

A: Yes, we do. If I told you I'd have to kill you (laughing) ... Seriously, though, we're excited. It's going to be a biggie.

— Brandy Ballenger

Rolling Thunder 2005

Legion Riders and motorcyclists from across America will once again rumble into Washington Memorial Day weekend for the annual Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom." The ride's mission is to raise awareness of American POW-MIAs. At 2:30 p.m. May 28, Legion Riders will place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information about the Legion Riders and Rolling Thunder, visit americanlegionriders.net.

Harley-Davidson Sportster



2005 Sportster
\$7,595
Retail value

Although the racing paint scheme remains the same, the 2005 883R is much different than the original 1957 Sportster. It comes equipped with dirt-track inspired handlebars and 51 ft. lbs. of torque to help keep the finish line within view.

1957 Sportster
\$9,725

Today's value for a first-year model in very good condition.



Source: NADAguides.com

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[LEGION NEWS]

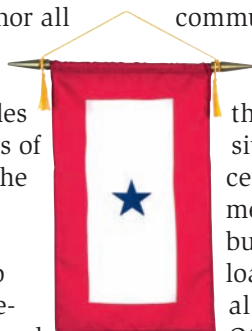
'Make May 21 a national day of thanks'

Nationwide "Blue Star Salute" events on Armed Forces Day, coordinated by American Legion posts, will honor all branches of the active-duty military, National Guard and Reserves. The salute also provides opportunities to build awareness of the Blue Star Banner program, the Family Support Network, the Reconnect program and the American Legacy Scholarship to families of deployed U.S. service-members. "Make May 21 a national day of thanks for those who go in harm's way in our behalf," Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said.

Event-planning guides were sent out last winter to provide ideas for depart-

ments, districts and posts to help make the Blue Star Salute a success in every community. Materials remain available at legion.org and by clicking on "Public Relations," then "Event Planning." The Web site has free Blue Star Salute certificates of honor for military members, their spouses and local businesses. They can be downloaded and edited with individual names and signature blocks. Other special awards are available for children and family members.

For more information, contact the Legion's Emblem Sales division at (888) 453-4466 or visit emblem.legion.org on the Web.



[SECURITY]

Buying bio-defense

\$414 million

Federal spending on bio-defense in fiscal 2001

\$7.6 billion

Federal spending on bio-defense in fiscal 2004

90,000

Approximate number of smallpox vaccine doses in America on Sept. 11, 2001

300 million

Approximate number of smallpox vaccine doses available today



Smith's son mourns the death of his heroic father. *U.S. Army*

Iraq's first Medal of Honor

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith is the first Operation Iraqi Freedom soldier awarded the Medal of Honor. He also is the first to earn the award since Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart, members of the Army's Delta Force, were posthumously presented the award in 1994 for their heroism in Somalia.

Smith, 33, was killed April 4, 2003, when he and about two dozen combat engineers were attacked by more than 100 Iraqi troops just outside of Baghdad International Airport. According to eyewitnesses, Smith jumped on an armored vehicle and sprayed attackers with .50-caliber machine gun fire for nearly 10 minutes. He was killed by a single gunshot and died less than an hour later, but not before his actions had killed 20 to 50 insurgents.

[Q&A]

Men of mettle

Pete Lemon knows heroism. As a U.S. Army sergeant who served in Vietnam, Lemon's defense of Fire Support Base Illingworth earned him the Medal of Honor. Wounded three times, outnumbered and challenged by malfunctioning weapons, Lemon managed to rescue a wounded comrade and drive out the enemy.

But Lemon would rather talk about Bill Crawford, Carl Sitter, Jerry Murphy and Drew Dix – Medal of Honor recipients of three different wars, all from Pueblo, Colo. Lemon co-produced the documentary "Beyond the Medal of Honor," which tells their stories. The documentary, airing on PBS, takes an in-depth look at each man and the actions that earned each the medal. The stories are told in graphic detail through interviews with each recipient, historians, family and eyewitnesses.

Helped by Perot Foundation funding, 17,000 of the five-DVD sets, along with curriculum guides, were mailed to high schools across the nation and overseas.

Lemon recently spoke with The American Legion Magazine.

The American Legion Magazine:

What prompted you to begin this project?

Pete Lemon: When I moved to Colorado Springs, I befriended Bill Crawford, who became a sort of surrogate father to me. I found out that Bill had taken a job as a janitor at the Air Force Academy, in part to supplement his income and in part to remain close to the military. I really admired him doing that, trying to mentor these kids, but two cadets didn't think too much of him and kind of belittled him. But one day, those

two were in the library researching a project, and while reading a book about World War II, they came across the name "Bill Crawford" as a Medal of Honor recipient. They took the book to Bill and asked him, "Is this you?" He meekly responded that it was. After that, Bill became very instrumental in the way those two developed as cadets. One of those cadets, James Moschat, became a colonel and wrote "A Janitor's 10 Lessons in Leadership," which thousands of people have read on the Internet. I thought this was an



[POLL]

Troop support of war in Iraq still high

American media often paint a different picture, but U.S. troops squarely support the effort to rebuild Iraq, according to a poll conducted by the *Military Times*. Active-duty troops were surveyed from the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy, and 63 percent of respondents said they support the president's handling of the war. Six in 10 believe the war is worth the effort. Support is even higher among veterans of Iraq combat, with 67 percent saying "the war is worth fighting."



A soldier with A Company, 4th Engineers, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, works security in Balad, Iraq, prior to the capture of Saddam Hussein. *U.S. Army*

[VA HEALTH CARE]

Quality of VA health care

91: Quality rating, on a scale of 100, veterans gave VA health care in a 2004 independent customer-satisfaction study

84: Rating veterans gave VA's inpatient hospital services

79: Rating patients gave for private-sector inpatient care

83: Rating veterans gave VA's outpatient services

81: Rating private-sector patients gave for their outpatient services

— National Quality Research Center at the University of Michigan Business School, the CFI group and the Federal Consulting Group



"Beyond the Medal of Honor"

Legionnaires can purchase the DVD set at a reduced price of \$39 on the Web site. Enter the promotional code "Legion."

amazing story. Later, I met Drew, Carl and Jerry at different functions and thought that this was so unique that all four of these guys came from the same town. It needed to be captured in a documentary – not just what they did to earn the medal, but how they grew up and the lives they touched.

Q: Crawford and Sitter died during production. How did that affect the effort?

A: After Bill died, we gave a lot of thought to the project, but we decided to continue. We filmed his burial at the Air Force Academy, and the other three recipients all came to his

funeral. Two weeks later, Carl died of pneumonia. We still needed to tell this story. We flew a crew to Arlington National Cemetery and filmed Carl's burial.

Q: Why send these materials to high schools?

A: Students don't know what the Medal of Honor is about. They're not learning history. This project can help change the landscape of our nation with lessons in character, courage, responsibility, respect, loyalty, duty, honor, country and, above all, selflessness for the greater good of mankind. We sent out a sampling to high schools asking if they would use this. Of the 17,000 we sent out, only one said it wouldn't use it. More than 4 million students will view it.

Q: How have schools reacted to the documentary?

A: We've gotten hundreds of responses back from schools thanking us for sending them the DVDs. The most important part of this program is we're touching future generations of Americans.

– Steve Brooks

[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

An echoing tribute to veterans

On Armed Forces Day, May 21, brass-instrument players from across the nation will line up over a 41-mile expanse between Woodlawn National Cemetery in



IndexStock

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[echotaps2@](mailto:echotaps2@wmconnect.com)

wmconnect.com

Elmira, N.Y., and the Bath National Cemetery in Bath, N.Y., as part of John P. Eaton

American Legion Post 746 in Corning, N.Y.'s "Echo Taps" event. Each person will play "Taps," creating a "military honors echo" between the two cemeteries. Echo Taps aims to recruit volunteer buglers, honor military service and raise awareness about America's national cemeteries.

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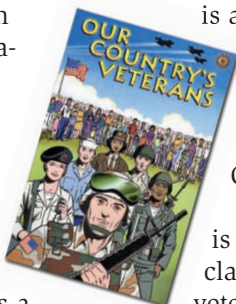
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[CHILDREN & YOUTH]

Comic book illustrates why we honor veterans

The American Legion has published an educational comic book for elementary students, explaining who veterans are and why they are honored. "Our Country's Veterans" is a 16-page, full-color publication that follows a group of young people through a series of interviews with veterans who served during our country's wartime periods. "The storyline



is as much a history lesson as it is a testimony to veterans' service," National Americanism Commission Chairman Joe Caouette said.

"Our Country's Veterans" is an excellent publication for classroom presentations by veterans from the community. These and other Americanism publications are available by calling (888) 453-4466 or visiting emblem.legion.org on the Web.

Sleepless in America

Majority of apnea cases go undiagnosed.

Millions of Americans are robbed of a good night's rest by sleep apnea, an often-overlooked condition that causes people to stop breathing for short periods while asleep. It can happen up to 400 times a night, sometimes awakening victims from deep sleep. Initially, sleep apnea isn't harmful. However, it can cause serious problems left untreated, including heart disease and stroke, if serious sleep apnea goes untreated.

Sleep apnea is as common as adult diabetes. Doctors estimate that about 12 million Americans battle with it. The majority of cases are never diagnosed. Men older than 40 are more likely to have sleep apnea, but it can affect anyone at any age. Some studies have shown that a family history of sleep apnea increases the risk two to four times. Being overweight is a risk factor, as is having a large neck. Women are more likely than men to have it. Abnormalities of the structure of the upper airway are contributing factors. Smoking and alcohol use increase the risk of sleep apnea.

Sleep apnea comes in three varieties. Obstructive sleep apnea, which affects 90 percent of sufferers, is the most common. Obstructive apnea blocks the passage or windpipe that brings air into the body. A sleeping person tries to breathe but can't get

enough air because of a blockage caused by the tongue, tonsils or uvula. The windpipe might also be blocked by a large amount of fatty tissue in the throat or even by relaxed throat muscles.

Central sleep apnea, a rarer type, is related to the function of the central nervous system. With this type of apnea, the muscles used to breathe don't get the "go-ahead" signal from the brain. Either the brain doesn't send the signal, or the signal gets interrupted.

Mixed-sleep apnea is a combination of obstructive and central apnea.

The most common symptoms of sleep apnea are loud snoring and excessive daytime sleepiness. Other symptoms may include morning headaches, forget-

fulness, mood changes, irritability and a decreased interest in sex.

The road to a restful night

People with sleep apnea can take steps to get a better night's sleep:

- Stop all use of alcohol or sleep medicines
- Lose weight
- Sleep on the side rather than the back
- Wear a special mask to keep the airway open by adding air pressure
- Undergo surgical procedure to remove tonsils or extra tissue from the throat
- Take medications prescribed for central sleep apnea

Source: American Sleep Apnea Association, Sleepapnea.org

[VETERANS AFFAIRS]

CBO issues a cloudy long-term forecast for VA health care

The Congressional Budget Office delivered disturbing news early this year to those with interests in federal programs – like VA health care – that rely on discretionary spending. The CBO's annual projections for 2005 and the following 10 years anticipated total federal entitlement spending (mandatory appropriations) to keep growing while discretionary items will "decline as a share of GDP." The American Legion is now working with Congress to change VA health-care funding from discretionary to mandatory.

The budget office's crystal ball

- Total federal outlays will increase at an annual average rate of 4.3 percent between 2005 and 2015.
- Mandatory spending is projected to grow 5.7 percent each year, outpacing total spending and the expected growth rate of the U.S. economy as a whole.
- Discretionary spending is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.4 percent.
- Discretionary appropriations are expected to fall from 38 percent of all federal spending and 7.6 percent of GDP to 30 percent of all federal spending and 5.6 percent of GDP between 2005 and 2015.
- Mandatory spending for Medicare and Medicaid is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 9 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively.

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[VERBATIM]

"Exactly who the men on the hill are is not as important as the fact that they are there. Being there, they are not only representative of other men who died unknown, but of all men who have fought for America. For that reason, they belong to all of us."

— **John C. Metzler**, Arlington National Cemetery, 1958. Metzler, a World War II sergeant, served as the cemetery's superintendent from 1951 until 1972. He died in 1990 and is buried there. His son became superintendent in 1991.

"Everyone will be getting a letter. I wouldn't consider this permanent ... we will never stop trying."

— **Ellen Barakove**, spokeswoman for New York City Medical Examiner Charles Hirsch, after announcing that the city had exhausted DNA technology and was suspending the process of identifying human remains from 9/11. More than four out of 10 families have no recovered remains for burial.

[ACTIVE DUTY]

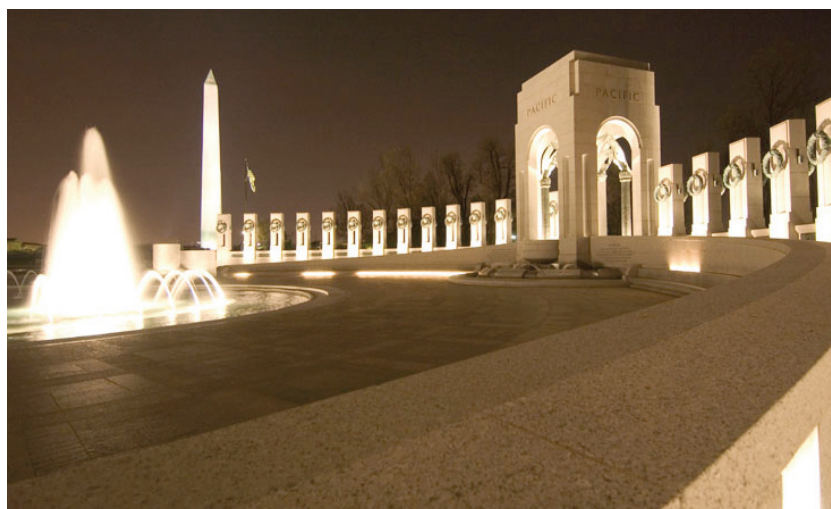
New badge recognizes the '360-degree battlefield'

The Army's new Close Combat Badge, announced in March, recognizes specific armor, cavalry, field artillery and combat-engineer soldiers, colonel and below, serving in arms brigades that engage in active ground combat. Major generals have authority to award the badge, retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001. The first generation of the badges will be awarded this fall.

"This notion came from commanders in the field," Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. F.L. Hagenbeck said. "They said, very specifically, that we've reorganized, for example, field artillery units and created infantry-like formations. Everyone is in danger on today's 360-degree battlefield."

The combat patch worn by soldiers in combat zones will remain the visual symbol for soldiers who served in theater. The CCB is awarded to those who meet its specific criteria.

[GALLERY]



© Steven R. Brown 2004

Jewel of the Mall

Stephen R. Brown of Washington, whose photography career of more than 25 years has included work for dozens of major magazines, captured the National World War II Memorial, from construction through completion last May. His self-published collection titled "Jewel of the Mall" is now in bookstores. Samples of his work can be found at www.iimemorialbook.com.

[MEMBERSHIP]

'Race to the Top' winners to enjoy Indy

American Legion district commanders with the highest membership growth in five different categories will win the annual "Race to the Top" competition and seats at the Indianapolis 500 on May 28.

The first-place award in each category gives the district commander and his or her spouse on an all-expenses-paid vacation for five days to attend the 500, including round-trip airfare to Indianapolis, dinner with National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus, a tour of the Legion's National Headquarters, first-class hotel accommodations, and tickets to the race with a police escort to the track.

In each category, the prize for second place is a \$500 Visa gift card. Third-place recipients will receive \$375 gift cards.

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File

"Here rests in honored glory An American soldier, Known but to God"

The Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery

Q: How does the guard rotation work at the Tomb of the Unknowns?

A: Tomb guards work 24 hours on, 24 hours off, 24 hours on, 24 hours off, 24 hours on, 96 hours off. Over the years, it has been different. Time off isn't exactly free. It takes the average sentinel eight hours to prep his uniform for the next workday.

Q: How many steps does the guard take during his walk and why?

A: Twenty-one steps. It alludes to the 21-gun salute, the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

Q: Why are his gloves wet?

A: His gloves are moistened to improve his grip on the rifle.

Q: How often are the guards changed?

A: The guard is changed every 30 minutes during the summer (April 1 to Sept. 30) and every hour during the winter (Oct. 1 to March 31). During the hours the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every two hours. The tomb has been guarded every minute of every day since 1937.

Q: Is it true sentinels must commit two years to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives?

A: No. The average tour at the tomb is about a year. There is no set time for service there. The sentinels live either in a barracks on Fort Myer or off-base. They do have living quarters under the steps of the amphitheater where they stay during their 24-hour shifts, but when they are off, they are off. And if they are of legal age, they may drink anything they like except while on duty.

Q: Are the shoes specially made to keep the heat and cold from their feet?

A: The shoes are standard-issue military dress shoes. They are built up so the sole and heel are equal in height.

Q: Has anyone ever tried to get past the tomb guards or attempted to deface the tomb?

A: Yes. That is the reason why it is guarded. Today, most of the challenges faced by the sentinels are tourists who want to get a better picture or children.

Source: Society of the Honor Guard – Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Tombguard.org

Museum celebrates 60th anniversary of V-E day

The World War II Victory Museum in Auburn, Ind., on May 7 honors those who won

Tickets & Info
World War II
Victory Museum
(260) 927-9144
www.iiivictory.org

victory in Europe on May 8, 1945. "V-E Day: A Celebration of Freedom

60 Years in the Making" includes a USO-style show, special guests and the unveiling of a new memorial. Veterans will receive gifts, and World War II veterans with proper identification will be admitted free. The 90,000-square-foot museum houses a vast collection, including 150 U.S. and German military vehicles, rare weapons, uniforms and other items.

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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

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AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Eng Spec Bdes, Las Vegas, 9/13-15, Steve Pentek, (561) 748-9896, [cibtighe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbtighe@sbcglobal.net); 4th Emerg Rescue Sqdn, Louisville, KY, 9/28-10/1, Chet Gunn, (781) 944-6616, tightboot@msn.com; 5th AF 8th Ftr Grp 33rd, 35th, 36th, 8th Ftr Cont Sqdns & All Support Units, Arlington, VA, 9/22-24, John Mark, (847) 678-5075, onmarkpsi@aol.com; 7th AF 11th Bomb Grp (WWII), Colorado Springs, CO, 9/9-13, Gus Petros, (800) 521-9119 ext. 3127, philgu@cox.net; 13th Bomb Sqd Assn, San Antonio, 9/7-11, Bill Madison, (425) 337-8130, bmadi69961@aol.com; 18th Ftr Sqd, Oklahoma City, 9/8-11, George Banasky, (918) 437-5425; 34th Bomb Grp Assn, Albuquerque, NM, 9/21-25, Harold Rutka, (218) 724-1667; 50th AP K-9, Philadelphia, 10/13-16, Tom Spath, (717) 838-5516, etspath@aol.com

57th Bomb Wing Assn of WWII (B-25 Units, Mediterranean), 12th Bomb Grp (81st, 82nd, 83rd & 434th Bomb Sqdns), 310th Bomb Grp (379th, 380th, 381st & 428th Bomb Sqdns), 319th Bomb Group (437th, 438th, 439th & 440th Bomb Sqdns), 321st Bomb Grp (445th, 446th, 447th & 448th Bomb Sqdns), 340th Bomb Grp (486th, 487th, 488th & 489th Bomb Sqdns), 346th & 324th Serv Sqdns & 308th Sig Wing, St. Louis, 9/21-26, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; 63rd AAF FTD (Douglas, GA, WWII), Grand Rapids, MI, 8/31-9/4, Dan Jandenoa, (616) 241-1407, ljandenoa@aol.com; 65th TCS SWPA (WWII), Davis, CA, Aug, Bud Hawkey, (937) 996-3851; 79th Ftr Bomb Sqd (Woodbridge, UK, 1952-1955), Austin, TX, 9/14-18, Ray Gautreaux, (225) 357-8198; 80th Ftr Sqd, Las Vegas, 10/6-9, Jay Reidel, (706) 324-7360, juvat1@knology.net; 85th Aircraft Repair Sqdn (Erding, Germany), St. Louis, 10/5-7, Rodney Mikesell, (916) 488-7459, rwmike@sbcglobal.net

86th Ftr Bomb Grp (WWII), St. Paul, MN, 9/22-24, Sidney Howard, (714) 992-2504, ww2gfu@juno.com; 87th Airdrome Tth, 20th AAF, Memphis, TN, 10/1-3, Ray Rogers, (917) 734-4702, raydor@nwnonline.net; 90th Bomb Sqdn LNI (Korea), Vienna, VA, 9/29-10/2, Richard Larsen, (717) 352-2900, larsengl@innernet.net; 100th Bomb Grp (H), Pittsburgh, 9/29-10/1, Don Bradley, donduckdk@aol.com; 191st Cbt Support Sqdn/Mission Support Sqdn/Resources Mgmt Sqdn "Six Pack Gang," Alpena, MI, 9/8-11, Don Hengesh, (231) 439-0987, donthengesh@aol.com; 312th Bomb Grp (L) A-20 "Havoc" 5th AF SWPA (WWII), Pittsburgh, 9/7-10, J.T. Happy, (863) 439-6657, jthappy@juno.com; 321st Strat Recon Sqd 90th Strat Recon Wing, San Antonio, 10/5-8, Ray Stewart (860) 887-9113, rstew27@sbcglobal.net; 340th Bomb Grp, Dayton, OH, 9/8-11, Bud Brakowiecki, (916) 726-8174, bbrakowi@surewest.net; 344th Bomb Grp, Washington, Sept, Austin Lambert,

(713) 774-3030, idaustinsr@hotmail.com; 351st Bomb Grp (Polebrook, England, WWII), Reno, NV, 7/14-17, Clint Hammond, (717) 766-1489; 368th Ftr Grp 9th AF (WWII), Washington, 10/7-10, Randolph Goulding, (678) 333-0241; 376th Bomb Grp H B-24 (North Africa & Italy, 1942-1945), San Antonio, 9/13-18, Charles Yates, (817) 292-5900; 376th Serv Sqdn 5th AF (WWII), Nashville, TN, 9/22-24, Sye Werwa, (561) 495-4325, mimsigh@aol.com; 416th Bomb Grp, Nashville, TN, Aug, Ralph Conti, (573) 817-9247, rafe87@socket.net; 416th NFS/TFS (WWII-1993), Scottsdale, AZ, 10/6-9, Ron Green, (480) 595-8693, rongreen416@member.afa.org; 440th FIS (Geiger, Landstuhl, Erding, Germany), Fort Myers, FL, 10/20-23, Tom Wills, (941) 497-5096, tomwills7@msn.com

450th Bomb Grp (H), Valley Forge, PA, 10/19-23, Al Goodman, (847) 543-8381, gobal@aol.com; 456th Bomb Grp B-24s (Cerignola, Italy, 1943-1945), Crystal City, VA, 8/31-9/4, Ed Moore, (800) 424-7515, georgia@mooretours.sabre.net; 463rd Bomb Grp "Swoose Grp," St. Louis, 9/14-18, Art Mendelsohn, (818) 790-3722; 511th AC&W Grp, 613th, 847th, 848th AC&W Sqdns & 39th Air Div Cont Ctr, San Antonio, 9/21-25, Don Simmons, (972) 231-6518, dona7112@sbcglobal.net; 555th AF ROTC, Washington, 8/18-21, Ralph Testa, (860) 523-9249, charlotteswebct@yahoo.com; 603rd AC&W Grp, Washington, 9/9-12, Tom Lyons, (703) 522-9140, thomaslyons2605@aol.com; 623rd AC&W Sqdn (Okinawa, 1953-1956), Branson, MO, 9/22-25, Joseph "Bob" Dutil, (207) 872-6442, jnrdt@adelphia.net; 780th Radar Sqdn (Fortuna AF Sta, ND), Fortuna, ND, 7/8-10, Lori Fye, (301) 841-6511, lrfye58@yahoo.com

799th AC&W Sqdn, Joelton, TN, 9/19-21, Jerry Swanson, jl54-1@juno.com; 3084th Avn Depot Grp, Stony Brook AFS, Chicopee, MA, 9/15-17, Clarke Ketter, (859) 273-2259, crketter@insightbb.com; 3454th Tng Sqdn (Warren AFB, WY, 1947-1956), San Antonio, 10/20-22, Joe Gordy, (970) 353-7445, helchief@pngusa.net; 6911th RGM, Kissimmee, FL, 5/5-7, Rich Merrill, (303) 985-3575, rich1pat2@aol.com; 7406th Support Sqdn (Germany), Philadelphia, 5/19-21, Harold Cleet, (610) 437-0823; AACs Alumni Assn, Kansas City, KS, 9/22-25, Mac Maginnis, (866) 299-1045, c.maginnis@comcast.net; Bolling AFB "B-25 Bunch," Biloxi, MS, 5/22-26, C.J. Smith, (937) 375-4671; Burtonwood AFB (Warrington, England), Shreveport, LA, 10/11-15, Richard Iwanowski, (773) 767-1810, ikeiwan@aol.com; Crash Boat Rescue Assn, Orlando, FL, 10/14-16, Wayne Mellesmoen, (562) 588-5504;

D Co 409th Inf 103rd Inf Div, Eureka Springs, AR, 10/6-9, Gene Cleifsch, (870) 423-3791; Evreux AB Alumni, Washington, 9/21-25, Norbert Mueller, (512) 341-3541, evsecmueller@aol.com; GEEIA/MDA/EI,

Peoria, IL, 9/8-11, Milt Nichols, (603) 257-6972, miltb5s@sbcglobal.net; OCS Classes 63-A, 63-B, 63-C & 63-D, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/1-5, Jerry Nolan, (719) 633-7859, jnolancolo@aol.com; Perrin Field Reunion (1941-1971), Denison, TX, 6/25, John Elkins, (903) 893-6400, www.j527@texoma.net; Thunderbirds Alumni Assn, Las Vegas, 11/17-20, Doris Wilson, (702) 871-7197, doewilson@aol.com; Vietnam Security Police, Moody AFB, GA, Oct, Steve Gattis, (254) 396-3400, gattis@gte.net; Women in the AF (WAF) Assn, Norfolk, VA, 9/13-19, Mildred "Milly" South, (434) 223-2695

ARMY

1st Armd Div Assn (WWII-Iraq), Herndon, VA, 8/16-21, Joe Theriot, (270) 737-0901; 2nd Armd Div Assn (All Units, Years), Kansas City, MO, 8/31-9/3, Lewis Bogart, (570) 546-9415; 2nd Bn 32nd Arty "Proud Americans" (Vietnam), Washington, 5/19-22, Ralph Jones, (513) 583-1632, rjones2u@aol.com; 2nd Eng Spec Bde "Amphibs" (All Eras), Washington, 9/9-12, Paul Lieberman, seahorse2esb@aol.com; 4th AAA SCARWAFs (RAF Sta, England - Wyton, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Upper Heyford, Fairford and All Satellite Sta, 1950-1953), Washington, 9/9-13, Bill Parkhurst, (918) 446-6400; 4th Inf (IVY) Div Assn, Las Vegas, 7/17-23, Michael Irving, (702) 433-1303, mjcirving@earthlink.net; 5th Armd Div (WWII), Watertown, NY, 8/24-27, Will Cook, (419) 739-9677, wc5ad@bright.net; 5th Msl Bn 517th Arty, Abilene, TX, 6/10-12, Byron Penrod, (325) 692-6006, byrod01@aol.com

6th Inf, Nashville, TN, Sept, Bob Beutlich, (262) 742-2108, rebroy@elknet.net; 7th Bn 15th FA (Vietnam, 1967-1971), Cleveland, 8/18-21, Dan Gillotti, (440) 934-1750, firstcav68@adelphia.net; 7th Inf Div Assn, College Park, GA, 9/15-18, Gene Peebles, (727) 397-8801, president@7th-inf-div-assn.com; 8th Armd Div, Herndon, VA, 7/13-16, Sidney Bishop, (865) 475-2883; 9th Inf Div 4th Bn 39th Inf (Vietnam), Washington, 8/11-13, Jim Haines, (303) 809-1815, lzbblackhawk439@pocketmail.com; 10th Cbt Eng Bn (Kitzingen, Germany, 1959-1962), Nashville, TN, 9/16-18, Stan Fish, (708) 354-3269; 10th Inf Div 35th FA "Opn Gyroscope" (Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany, 1955-1956), Nashville, TN, 9/11-13, Loran Patton, (402) 873-4389, mdpatton@alltel.net; 13th Major Post (WWII), Niagara Falls, NY, 5/24-27, Chris Oconnor, (201) 797-6145, c.c.oconnor@att.net

15th Constab Sqdn (Widen, Germany, 1949-1952), Brookfield, WI, 9/15-17, R. Deane, (239) 369-2409, rad15thcon_2@juno.com; 19th Cbt Eng Assn & Attached Units (Vietnam), Waynesville, MO, 9/9-10, John Hack, (219) 947-2363, jchack3@verizon.net; 21st AAA AW Bn SP (1949-1953), Austin, TX, 10/5-7, Lester Kenfield, (717) 939-4621; 22nd FA Bn 4th Armd Div (Zirndorf, Germany, 1959-1960), San Antonio, 9/15-18, Bob Herron,

(417) 779-3327, ebhaddon@aol.com; **26th Inf Scout Dog Plt**, Branson, MO, 10/7-9, Robert Fickbohm, (605) 456-2636; **31st Inf Rgt Assn**, Columbus, GA, 8/26-29, Don Williams, (360) 629-4941, dawgfans@snohomish.net; **34th Inf Div**, Carlisle, PA, 7/28-31, Ray Rudolph, (412) 486-6536, redbuljir@cs.com; **40th Div 40th MP Co**, Louisville, KY, 5/17-19, Paul Wright, (804) 580-4049; **40th Div 160th Rgt E Co**, Grand Island, NE, 8/26-28, Jim Bork, (928) 567-6334, jobork@msn.com; **45th Div 279th Inf L Co**, Branson, MO, 11/7-10, Paul Elkins, (907) 260-6612, p.s.elkins@att.net; **50th Cbt Eng A & C Cos**, Albert Lea, MN, 7/22-24, Kermith Twito, (507) 373-6641; **53rd EB&SR (WWII, Korea)**, Kansas City, MO, 9/14-17, Tony Sanchez, (816) 587-5518, hoandoro@netzero.com; **56th Amph Tank & Tract Bn**, Kelleen/Fort Hood, TX, 9/27-10/1, Bob Hawks, (254) 547-2746, woodhawks@earthlink.net

58th Float Bridge Co, Chattanooga, TN, 9/12-16, Wes Stubert, (205) 631-6678, awassoc@charter.net; **65th AFA Bn 3rd Armv Div (Fort Knox, KY, 1955-1957)**, Dubuque, IA, 7/9, Ray Moose, (253) 631-8115; **70th AAA Gun Bn (1953-1955)**, Sarasota, FL, 10/23-26, Jim Harden, (941) 377-5295, cribbagebd2@webtv.net; **70th Hvy Tank Bn (WWII, Korea)**, Louisville, KY, 9/8-10, Ashley Anderson, (317) 861-4124, ashley-myrtle@sbcglobal.net; **77th Ord Depot Co (All Former Membs)**, Charleston, SC, 9/8-10, Lowell A. Medin, (847) 359-4194, 12hemset@msn.com; **84th Eng Bn Const (Vietnam)**, Boston, 6/24-26, Richard Sharp, (314) 821-8640; **90th FA Assn (Korea)**, Charleston, SC, 10/19-23, Leroy Robarge, (414) 761-2701, lobster90thfa@aol.com; **91st Chem Mortar Bn**, Memphis, TN, 9/29-10/2, Orlando Rosado, (901) 496-2289, orlandorosado69@msn.com

91st MP Bn 289th, 560th & 563rd MP Co (Pusan, Korea, 1952-1954), Birch Run, MI, 7/29-31, Bob Simon, (989) 792-3718, robsimonfarms@aol.com; **96th FA Bn All Btrys (Korea, 1950-1958)**, Green Bay, WI, 8/25-28, Curt Umhoefer, (715) 854-2355, yankeelakers@mailstation.com; **98th Div (WWII)**, Scranton, PA, 6/6-9, Norman Johnson, (607) 589-6061; **100th Inf Div (WWII)**, Penn's Landing, PA, 9/8-11, Roland Giduz, (919) 942-2194, rgiduz@nc.rr.com; **101st Abn Div "Screaming Eagles"**, Tampa, FL, 8/10-14, Jim Joiner, (813) 645-8777, mjoiner883@aol.com; **148th Inf Rgt 37th Div**, Port Clinton, OH, 8/26-27, Bruce Eberly, (937) 773-8625, mabeberly@aol.com; **148th Ord MVA Co (WWII)**, Davenport, IA, 9/19-23, Jerome Paulson, (712) 867-4432, jercol@webtv.net; **163rd Inf 41st Inf Div (WWII)**, Helena, MT, 9/9-11, Joe Upshaw, (406) 442-5856, jgupshaw@juno.com

173rd FA Grp, Lenexa, KS, 9/22-26, Jim Melvin, (923) 287-6378; **187th Abn Rgt Cbt Team**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/21-28, James E. Hoeh, (513) 481-4045, rakkasan@fuse.net; **203rd AAA D Btry**, Frankfort, KY, 7/15-16, Chan Partenheimer, (812) 333-2230, partenhe@indiana.edu; **254th FA Bn**, Ashtabula, OH, 9/9-11, Earle Schwark, (440) 884-4323; **313th Inf Rgt**, Perrysburg, OH, 7/27-31, Bob Watrol, (419) 666-9041, blmw7@aol.com; **335th Radio Research Co/Opns Co (Can Tho, Vietnam)**, Arlington, VA, 6/3-5, Patrick McAllister, (703) 368-5519, mcsagg007@hotmail.com; **369th Eng Amph Support Rgt Boat & Shore Bns (All Cos)**, Bloomington, MN, 6/24-26, Miles Collins, (952) 831-0550; **383rd AAA AW Bn**, Bellville, OH, 8/5-7, Ed Beeching, (419) 347-5255; **385th AAA AW Bn**, Greensboro, NC, 6/24-26, Douglass Cochran, 12033 Belvedere Road, Hagerstown, MD 21742; **393rd FA Bn**, Burlington, NC, 6/11 & Lafayette, IN, 9/10, Robert Lofland, (765) 523-2200

398th AAA AW Bn (Korea), Branson, MO, 9/18-21, Arlie Schemmer, (636) 228-4474; **504th AAA All Btrys (WWII)**, 10/13-16, D. Schmid, (330) 336-2516; **529th FA Obsn Bn**, Lake George, NY, 9/16-19, Michael DeMario, (518) 745-8623, mjdemario@aol.com; **560th Sig Bn Co (Vicenza, Italy)**, North Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/8-16, Ernest Blankenship, (281) 356-7476, eblankenship@ev1.net; **563rd AAA**

(WWII), Statesville, NC, 6/2-5, Grady Sink, (336) 993-5274; **603rd Medium Tank Co 1st Cav Div (WWII)**, Fenimore, WI, 8/16-18, Robert Lancaster, (715) 736-1919, lancer@chibardun.net; **629th Ord Co FS (Qui Nhon, Vietnam, 1965-1966)**, Las Vegas, 6/3-5, Gary Matthews, (712) 485-2422, gmatt41347@aol.com; **630th AAA Bn**, Concord, NC, 9/21-24, Sonny Nelson, (704) 782-6574; **661st Tank Dest Bn**, Akron, OH, 9/22-25, Thomas Slopek, (330) 665-3510, tas5559@yahoo.com; **702nd Tank Dest Bn (WWII)**, Indianapolis, 6/10-12, Mike Leumer, (866) 777-8383, t.d.blasting@netscape.com; **741st Tank Bn**, Branson, MO, 10/9-12, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com; **753rd Railway Shop Bn**, Bucyrus, OH, 6/17-19, Tim Dobos, (269) 963-7196, tlhmer@comcast.net; **771st FA Bn B Btry**, Evansville, IN, 9/14-16, David Scott, (815) 458-2416, dscott901@webtv.net; **793rd MP Bn (All Years)**, Charleston, SC, 9/28-10/2, Frank DeRosa, (847) 255-3977

801st Eng Avn Bn SCARWAF, Davenport, IA, 9/15-17, Bill Dowd, (563) 569-8291, sjdowd@connect.com; **1092nd Eng Cbt Bn**, Parkersburg, WV, 8/19-21, Ray Williams, (304) 863-6104, rayandjudyw@charter.net; **ASA (Korea)**, Williamsburg, VA, 9/8-11, Jackie Rishell, (888) 681-5333, jrishell@all-in-one-tours.com; **B Co 9th AIB 6th Armv Div**, Ashville, NC, 7/28-31, Dee R. Williamson, (423) 673-5191; **B Co 179th Inf 45th Div**, Memphis, TN, 8/11-13, William Wood, (901) 682-6160, lwood@allenhoshall.com; **C Co 4th Bn 3rd Inf 11th LIB**, Las Vegas, 6/20-22, Steve Adams, (260) 478-9987, stevefire2@email.msn.com; **D Co Pitt ROTC Alumni**, Pittsburgh, 6/23, Paul Kuzmich, (412) 331-8691, paulkzm1@aol.com; **Delta Co 2nd Bn 16th Inf 1st Inf Div (1967-1968)**, Allegan, MI, 7/29-31, Don Dignan, (734) 525-0157, ddignan@peoplepc.com; **E Co 2nd Bn 386th Rgt 97th Div**, Sugar Creek, OH, 5/22-25, Russ Brustman, (330) 633-0262

G Co 279th Inf Rgt, Branson, MO, 10/6-9, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com; **Inf Officers Candidate School Class 36-67**, Reno, NV, Ronald Hopper, (740) 548-4274, hopper.27@osu.edu; **Parachute Rigger & Aerial Supply Vets**, Oak Grove, KY, 6/23-26, Charles J. Watts, (859) 299-2348; **Society of the 3rd Inf Div**, San Diego, 9/15-18, Bruce Monkman, (818) 343-3370, brucemonkman@earthlink.net

COAST GUARD

Arundel, Buckthorn, Cherry, Maple, Ojibwa, Point Steele, White Lupine, Wire & CGs 83359, 65024-D Chockberry, 55030, 45305, 49414, 45308, 49404 (Upper NY, Burlington, VT & Saugerties, NY), Sackets Harbor, NY, 9/23-25, Gordon Koscher, (330) 274-2927; **Erie PA Lifeboat Sta, Buffalo Base, Fort Niagara LBS, Rochester LBS, Sodus Point AUX OP, Oswego LBS, Galloo Island LBS, Sackets Harbor AUX OP, Cape Vincent Light Attendant Sta, CG Sta Alex Bay, MSD Masena, Burlington Base VT, ATN Saugerties, Res Unit PSU Buffalo/Syracuse, Loran Sta Seneca**, Sackets Harbor, NY, 9/23-25, Gordon Koscher, (330) 274-2927

JOINT

Alcoholics Anonymous in the Mil-Icebreakers/Dry Dock Grps, Toronto, 6/30-7/3, Charley Bill, 5452 Park Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845, charleyb_2002@yahoo.com; **American Ex-POW East Central FL Chpt**, Branson, MO, 11/6-13, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com; **Berlin Airlift Vets Assn**, St. Cloud, MN, 9/29-10/2, Lewis Dale Whipple, (318) 965-9860, ldalewhip@aol.com; **Bisbee PF 46**, CA, 5/2-6, Thom Weber, (609) 898-8561; **China/Burma/India Vets Assn**, Washington, 8/30-9/5, Albert Wilkat, (954) 792-6017, papaa183@juno.com; **Coos Bay AVP 25/CGCW 376**, Portland, OR, 9/21-25, Chuck Mallarkey, (425) 823-4040, coosbaychuck@aol.com; **Iwo Jima Assn - Iwo Jima LPH/LHD 7, Okinawa LPH 3, New Orleans LPH 11 All Navy & Mar Corps Personnel**, Baton Rouge, LA, 11/2-6, Robert McAnally, (866) 237-3137, yujack@megalink.net; **Leyte CV 32**,

Annapolis, MD, 9/25-29, Donald Kersten, (412) 367-4725, dlkersten2@cs.com; **Mills DE/DER 383**, New Orleans, 10/12-17, Roger Garner, (419) 668-6880, roger43@accnorwalk.com; **Mobile Riverine Force Assn**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/1-4, Bob VanDruff, (785) 267-1526, bvdmrfa@networksplus.net; **Moroccan Reunion Assn**, St. Louis, 9/21-25, Bob Sieborg, (402) 496-1498, robertb247@aol.com; **Vietnam Heli Pilots Assn (VHPA)**, San Francisco, 7/2-6, (916) 966-7592, hq@vhpa.org; **Wasp CV/CVA/CVS 18 (1943-1972)**, Cruise, New Orleans, 11/6-13, Richard VanOver, (716) 649-9053; **Weisbaden (1960s)**, San Francisco, 7/28-31, Doug Brill, (301) 469-9658, dougbrill@msn.com; **WWII Brides**, Seattle, 8/3-7, Helga Schmidt, (619) 583-5467, helga-omni@webtv.net; **WWII Vets, Blackpool**, Lancashire, England, 7/2-10, Julian Mineur, (+44 (0) 1253 290432/590469, info@lancashireremembers.org;

MARINES

3/8 Mar (Geiger to Beirut), Washington, 6/23-26, C. Eric Tischler, 2038 Mary Ellen Lane, State College, PA 16803, tischc38@earthlink.org; **3rd Bn Mar "India" Btry 3rd Bn 12th Mar (All Eras)**, San Antonio, 8/3-7, Larry Carpenter, (210) 824-4999, rl_carpenter@msn.com; **5th, 11th, 14th Def Bns (WWII)**, Cincinnati, 10/6-8, Jimmie Remley, (828) 697-8732, jremley2@mchsi.com; **A/177 (Korea, 1950-1953)**, San Diego, Bob Licker, (626) 331-8115, aimhi@vividnet.com; **Delta Co 1st Bn 3rd Mar (1965-1969)**, Washington, 8/16-21, Ray Kelley, (508) 854-0360, mgkm60@charter.net; **Golf Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar Rgt (1965-1970)**, Gettysburg, PA, 8/3-7, Bruce Guthrie, (760) 363-6141, bguthrie@e-universe.com; **Kilo Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar Rgt & Attached Units**, Minneapolis, 8/11-15, Harry Smith, (870) 247-1146, smitty@kilo37.com; **Mar 6th, 7th, 9th & 10th Def Bns**, Washington, 10/6-9, David Slater, (212) 348-8255, daveslater@earthlink.net

Mar Air Cont Sqdn 4 (1960-1962), Cruise, San Pedro, CA, 10/24-28, R.I. "Butch" Kaske, (760) 931-2644, buchkaske1@aol.com; **Mar Barracks of Bermuda**, Branson, MO, 10/6-9, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com; **US Seagoing Mar Assn**, San Diego, 9/22-25, USSMA, P.O. Box 463, Stockton, IA, 52769, bsvan@juno.com; **VMA-VMF 211**, Enfield, CT, 9/27-10/2, Rich Downs, (860) 745-0144

NAVY

3rd Seabees (WWII), Crystal City, VA, 9/22-25, Horace Johnson, (512) 517-4237; **29th Seabees**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 8/28-31, Arthur Grotto, (708) 974-3691, agrotto@sbcglobal.net; **36th Const Seabees**, Elmhurst, IL, 9/18-21, Richard Lindner, (716) 674-7660, seabees@aol.com; **85th Seabees**, Austin, TX, 8/12-14, Fred Davis, (512) 515-5367; **Agawam AOG 6**, New Orleans, 9/26-28, John Nicholson, (937) 323-0173, snipenick1@aol.com; **AN/YN Reunion**, Providence, RI, 9/29-10/1, Ed Pinson, (208) 362-2659, epinson@spro.net; **Albany CA 123/CG 10/SSN 753**, Woburn, MA, 7/26-31, Dick Desrochers, (603) 594-9798, ussalbanyreunion@ussalbany.org; **Albert T. Harris DE 447**, Mount Laurel, NJ, 9/30-10/3, Charles Cook, (918) 749, 8434, cjcook13@cs.com; **Alderamin AK 116**, Washington, 9/16-18, Dana Boyle, (716) 773-8993; **Appalachian AGC 1**, San Diego, 10/2-6, Ted Jones, (317) 898-8173, ctjones08173@msn.com

Ashtabula AO 51, San Diego, 6/23-26, Elmer Lopez, (951) 461-0279, ejandlopez@linkline.com; **Atka AGB 3 "Icebreaker"**, Chattanooga, TN, 6/23-25, Hank Giles, (734) 591-3068; **Bainbridge DDG 96**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 11/9-14, L.R. "Buds" Poythress, (910) 452-6338, budpoythress@bellsouth.com; **Baltimore CA 68**, Baintree, MA, 9/15-18, Dale Bloedow, (781) 646-7189; **Bayfield APA 33**, Branson, MO, 9/22-26, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com; **Belleau Wood**, Washington, 9/15-18, Richard Fread, (727) 848-5409, rfread@microd.com; **Bexar APA 237**, Washington, 9/22-25, James Redding, (559) 935-1439, dinamrls@charterinternet.com; **Bingham APA**

225, Nashville, TN, 9/15-17, Peter Xanthos, (716) 773-5852, xanthosp@aol.com; **Bollinger APA 234**, Vicksburg, MS, 9/19-22, Charlie Stewart, (936) 642-1704, fredfromjoplin@webtv.net; **Boxer CV/CVA/CVS 21 & LPH/LHD 4**, Somerset, NJ, 8/25-27, Ken Wyant, (610) 253-5347, kgwmr@aol.com; **Brinkley Bass DD 887**, Valley Forge, PA, 8/10-14, Bob Shetron, (626) 335-4034; **Bristol**, Charleston, SC, 10/6-9, John Watt, (760) 353-1408, wattisup@earthlink.net; **Bumper SS 333 Assn**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/5-8, Edward W. Stone, (315) 469-3825; **Cabezon SS 334**, Kansas City, MO, 8/29-9/4, Kenneth Gilman, (719) 597-2787, gilmanke@aol.com; **California BB 44 (1921-1959)**, Louisville, KY, 9/23-25, Harold Bean, (618) 635-5638; **Callaway APA 35**, Branson, MO, 9/19-23, Thomas Maxwell, (816) 886-7639; **Carlisle APA 69**, Branson, MO, 9/26-28, (800) 877-8687, info@bransonfun.com

Cascade AD 16, Branson, MO, 10/9-16, Lyle Burchette, (417) 334-5627; **Catron APA 71**, Hyannis, MA, 10/4-6, Walter End, (508) 759-3777, walero@webtv.net; **Clamagore SS 343**, Charleston, SC, 10/19-23, Robert Dewar, (904) 428-2247; **Cleveland LPD 7**, Washington, 9/29-10/2, Gil Eaton, (631) 669-2963, gkeaton@optonline.com; **Constant MSO 427**, Las Vegas, 10/3-5, Marvin Setness, (702) 897-9666, marvin.setness@worldnet.att.net; **Cony DD/DDE 508**, Lincoln City, OR, 7/11-14, Kenneth Plummer, (503) 539-5221, kenplum@hotmail.com; **Cowpens CVL 25 (WWII)**, Cowpens, SC, 6/14-19, Cue Fleming, (330) 864-7822; **Crook County LST 611**, Sundance, WY, 7/4, Clifford Coon, (307) 283-1671, cliff212_dal@yahoo.com; **Crux AK 115 (WWII)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 11/6-9, Wilton H. Price, (919) 365-5926; **Dashiell DD 659**, New Orleans, June, Jack Heasty, (352) 854-6667; **Davidson DE/FF 1045**, Branson, MO, 10/6-8, Bob Schippers, (641) 792-3930, colking@pcpartner.net

DeHaven DD 469/DD 727, Oklahoma City, 9/13-17, Jim Rigger, (417) 624-5718; **Denebola AF 56**, Norfolk, VA, 10/7-10, Glenn Train, (303) 487-4413, gtrain@hach.com; **DESRON 48/USS Kidd Assn - Abbot DD 629**, **Black DD 666**, **Bullard DD 660**, **Chauncey DD 667**, **Erben DD 631**, **Hale DD 642**, **Kidd DD 661**, **Stembel DD 644**, **Walker DD 517**, Indianapolis, 8/23-28, Ed Mills, (877) 238-1205, desron48@aol.com; **Eldorado AGC 11**, Springfield, IL, 9/6-9, Larry Benson, (217) 522-5164; **Enoree AO/TAO 69**, Omaha, NE, 9/26-30, Floyd A. Carriker, (714) 534-3025; **Enterprise CV 6**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/5-8, G. Hay Neie, (210) 655-3520, egneie@aol.com; **Everett F. Larson DD/DDR 830**, Branson, MO, 9/24-28, Ron Lee, (479) 925-9292, raleefsu@yahoo.com; **Fletcher DD/DDE 445 & DD 992**, New London, CT, 10/3-6, Pat Patapas, (860) 872-6338, eclipat@aol.com; **Flint CL 97**, Salem, OR, 9/15-17, George Stai, (320) 269-8403

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O'Brien DD 725, Nashville, TN, 9/14-17, Avon Blevins, (703) 323-1062; **Ohio LCI Assn**, Columbus, OH, 9/28-29, Roman Drake, (440) 843-6495, rjdtaurus25@aol.com; **Oklahoma City CL 91/CLG 5/CG 5/SSN 773**, Nashville, TN, 9/22-25, Frank A. Zaccaro, (727) 372-9692, fzac1025@aol.com; **Ommaney Bay CVE 79 & VC-75**, Branson, MO, 9/19-23, Richard Whisner, (951) 658-0873; **Orphans of the Pacific (Mobile Boat Pool 1, APL 30 & Serv Pack 4)**, Reno, NV, 8/29-9/1, Robbie Roberts, 505 Rose Ave., Fruitland Park, FL 34731, harrirobb@webtv.net; **Panamint AGC 13**, Branson, MO, 9/29-10/2, Walter Sutter, (315) 336-1018, wpsasutter@msn.com; **Peiffer DE 588**, Hudson, OH, 7/27-31, Ed Zuendel, (330) 928-2811; **Portsmouth CL 102 (1944-1950)**, Providence, RI, 5/4-8, Joe Barber, (860) 379-5364, jbarber@snet.net; **Prince William CVE 31**, Alexandria, VA, 10/8-11, Paul Engle, (315) 682-5022, pengine1@tcwny.rr.com

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DD 851, Lowell, MA, 10/20-23, Wayne Pompeo, (714) 775-5679, rupertusdd851@aol.com; **Sablefish SS 303**, Groton, CT, 11/11-13, Nick Gudz, (860) 235-8938, ngudz@sbcglobal.net; **Sampson DDG 10**, Nashville, TN, 5/28-30, Dave Brandt, (803) 478-2617, drbrandt@ftc-i.net; **Sargo SS 188/SSN 583**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/5-9, Mike Hacking, mrhacking@san.rr.com; **Satyr ARL 23**, Memphis, TN, 6/10-12, Mica Dickerson, (636) 528-2715, mjd2@socket.net; **Seadragon SSN 584**, Kansas City, MO, 9/1-3, Ron Waldron, (352) 753-5393, ssn584nucl@aol.com; **Severn AO 61**, Branson, MO, 10/6-9, Wayne Williams, (570) 675-3151, beegdblu@aol.com; **Sibley APA 206**, Greenville, SC, 10/20-23, Janet Benton, (864) 868-6695; **Sigourney DD 643**, Peabody, MA, 10/6-9, Guy Clinch, (978) 465-5011, kayc364@aol.com; **Snowden DE 246**, Atlantic City, NJ, 9/13-15, Jack Coyle, (732) 257-8031; **Solace AH 5 (WWII)**, Portland, OR, 9/16-18, James Mays, (253) 839-6743

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USN Armed Guard WWII NE, Ellenville, NY, 9/27-30, Alex Lombardi, (973) 746-6361; **VF-14 (WWII)**, **VF-53**, **VF-121 (Korea)**, **VF-141 "Iron Angels"**, Biloxi, MS, 6/23-26, Bill Luxon, (724) 899-2108, nosensaw@aol.com; **VF-92**, Seattle, 9/19-23, Ed Ellstrom, (303) 833-3103, elslim1@aol.com; **VR-7**, **VR-8**, Tunica, MS, 9/6-8, Ken Stewart, (931) 582-8675; **Waldron DD 699**, Atlantic Beach, FL, 9/7-10, Tim Jenkins, (904) 285-4446, tmjenkins@pcient.ml.com; **Warrington DD 843**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/5-9, Stan Prager, (916) 791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com; **White River LSMR 536**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Larry Lunsmer, (513) 677-2581, lhunter536@aol.com; **Wilkinson DL 5**, Seattle, 9/15-18, Walt Alexander, (540) 345-5826, d_l_association@cox.net; **Willis A. Lee DL 4**, Seattle, 9/15-18, Walt Alexander, (540) 345-5826, d_l_association@cox.net; **Yancey AKA 93**, Norfolk, VA, 11/10-13, George Clifton, (708) 425-8531, cliffs@ameritech.net

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155th Trans Co "Arctic Kings" (Fort Story, VA, Goose AFB, Labrador & Thule AFB, Greenland, 1959-1962), Darrell Myers, (217) 335-2609, darlin2@1st.net

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511th AC&W Grp 613th, 847th, 848th AC&W Sqdns & 39th Air Div Control Center (Northern Japan, 1946-1962), Don Simmons, (972) 231-6518, dona7112@sbcglobal.net

629th Ord Co FS (Qui Nhon, Vietnam, 1965-1966), Gary Matthews, (712) 485-2422, gmatt41347@aol.com

709th MP Police Bn (Germany), Michael Roselle, mrs1046@yahoo.com

6314th Sec Police SQ (Inchon "Wolmodo Island," Korea, June-Aug 1969), Kenneth Hopkins, (423) 733-4219, dshopkins90@hotmail.com

8219th Army Unit FA Topo & Met (Korea, 1950-1954), George Pakkala, 10401 Wystone Ave., Northridge, CA 91326, raah@aol.com

B Co 1st Bn 18th Mar 2nd Mar Div (Oct 1942-Dec 1945), Jerome Maratea, (847) 546-3261, ducklodge@sbcglobal.net

Chukawan AO 100 (1958-1962), Jerald Sarnes, (309) 543-2848, jsarnes@fgi.net

D Co 5th Cav Rgt (July 1950-June 1951), James Keppel, (814) 489-3256

Flt 1197 (Lackland AFB, Oct-Dec 1952), Daniel Grimsley, (910) 371-2017, danielgrimsley@hotmail.com

LSM 356 (Okinawa, 1945-1946), Paul Sautter, (937) 695-0037

M-3-8 Marines (Camp Lejeune, NC, 1960-1962), M. Wayne Redoway, (321) 777-8478

Pilot Class 54-K, Joe Guerra, (209) 634-1752, joeg9152810@cs.com

Tank Co 39th Inf (Monteith Barracks, Fuerth, Germany, 1955-1956), Luther Newman, (580) 323-4152

TAPS

Fred N. Corbett, Dept. of North Carolina.

Nat'l Inter-American Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1963-1965, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1967-1984, Dept. Cmdr. 1980-1981 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1981-1984.

Ronald J. Hanson, Dept. of California. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1997-2001, Dept. Cmdr. 2001-2002 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. 2001-2005.

William P. Kellam, Dept. of Virginia. Dept. Cmdr. 1952-1953, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Memb. 1953-1966 and Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966.

Milton E. Moritz, Dept. of Connecticut. Dept. Cmdr. 1972-1973 and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Memb. 1970-1978.

F. Leon Reed, Dept. of Arkansas. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1950-1952 and 1960-1964, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1955-1958, 1970-1971 and 1972-1973, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1966-1967 and 1968-1969, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1967-1968, Dept. Cmdr. 1969-1970, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Consultant 1970, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Consultant 1970-1973, Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 1973-2003, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1979-1987 and Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1987-1988.

Shelley S. Sines, Dept. of Maryland. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1997-2004.

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"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he challenged. "I'll bet a week's wages I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the young man replied. "Let's see what you got."

The old man grabbed a wheelbarrow by the handles and, nodding at the young man, said, "All right. Get in."

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The older man replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen. I've changed my will three times."



"With a click-click here and a click-click there,
Old MacDonald bought a farm ..."

AN ELDERLY COUPLE had dinner at another couple's house, and after the meal, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two men continued talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant. I highly recommend it."

"Which restaurant?" the other man asked.

The first man thought and thought, and finally he said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," the man exclaimed. He then turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"



"Going to throw out the first
arm of the season?"



"... and they lived happily ever after.
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UPON FINDING one of her students making faces at others on the playground, a teacher gently reproved the child. Smiling sweetly, the teacher said, "When I was a child, I was told if I made ugly faces, my face would freeze like that."

The student looked up and replied, "Well, you can't say you weren't warned."



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